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ABSTRACT

This document is a historical resume of adult education programs with church leaders sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Iowa State University since the early 20th century. Supported by research, resident teaching and administrative leaders in the institution, the Extension Division has cooperated educationally with church leaders, lay and professional, helping them deal with needs of community and sociological character in their work. Specific programs discussed are: Pre-World War I Country Life Conferences (1911-1916); February Institutes for Clergy and Church Lay Leaders (1932-1967); Summer Institutes for Rural Church Leaders (1939-1942); Iowa Pastors' Social Science Institutes (1961-1963); Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship (1935-1967); and district and county (rural) Community Life Conferences (1932-1942). Many other programs are listed which have been clearly associated with established denominations. Reported also are Inter-Church Council programs and Church Community-Relations Programs. The document includes sociological studies, surveys, and analyses used in the programs, and an account of social and economic area development programs in which churches participated. (se)

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Historical Résumé

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH CHURCH LEADERS

AT IOWA STATE
(COLLEGE) UNIVERSITY

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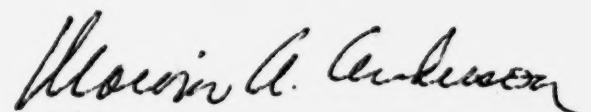
CAPITALIZING BACKGROUNDS

Ours is a rapidly changing society--characterized by technological progress and specialization. Problems of interrelatedness and teamwork are increasingly evident.

Citizens function through many groups and institutions. Religious institutions are distinctive in (1) the scope of their constituencies and the range of their functions, (2) the degree to which they represent concern for the whole of life, and (3) the extent to which they have roots in the past.

From its beginnings early in the 20th Century, the Cooperative Extension Service of the Iowa State University--supported by research, resident teaching and administrative leaders in the institution--has cooperated educationally with church leaders, lay and professional, helping them deal with "felt needs" in many aspects of their work. Such needs have been largely of a community-sociological character.

Historical reviews help establish footings and perspective for on-going programs. Relating what is documented in this "Historical Resume' of Adult Education Programs with Church Leaders" to changing aspects of our society, we can capitalize backgrounds to strengthen programs of the present and future.



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December 1968

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I. PRE-WORLD WAR I COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCES

Six "Country Life Conferences" were held at Iowa State College 1911-1916. These were related to interests stimulated by the work of the President Theodore Roosevelt Commission on Country Life.* The information most readily available regarding these conferences is found in three volumes of Agricultural Extension Bulletins published by the Agricultural Extension Department of Iowa State College.

1911: First Country Life Conference (no data found to use in this résumé).

1912: Extension Bulletin No. 12 (March 1913) presenting "Country Life Conference Addresses" has a Foreword stating:

"So much of good came forth in the addresses delivered before the second rural life conference at Iowa State College, June 24 to 30, 1912, that there was insistent demand that they be put into print for wide circulation and use. This collection of addresses...is dedicated to the use of men and women of Iowa who are striving to improve the conditions of rural life, with the hope that it may give them something of the inspiration and practical helpfulness that was secured from the conference itself by those who attended it.

"True to its purpose of rendering service to the rural communities of Iowa in every possible way, Iowa State College has decided to make these conferences permanent and to hold them annually in connection with its summer school of agriculture and home economics. This year, 1913, the conference will continue for two weeks instead of one, from July 7-19. Dean Chas. F. Curtiss and Director G. M. Wilson of the summer session are arranging for the attendance of lecturers of national reputation...."

*This Commission made its report to the President early in 1909. It was first published as Senate Document No. 705, 60th Congress, 2nd Session, for use of Congress. Copies were available for popular distribution in 1911. That year the Commission Chairman, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, dean of Agriculture, Cornell University, wrote a companion book, The Country Life Movement in the United States, in which he stated "three fundamental recommendations of the Commission." Abbreviated, these were (1) "taking stock of the exact condition and materials of country life," (2) "agricultural extension work...extended and systematized," and (3) "the holding of local, state, and even national conferences on rural progress, designed to unite the interests of education, organization, and religion into one forward movement for the rebuilding of country life."

Addresses published in Extension Bulletin No. 12 included:

Six by the Rev. M. B. McNutt of the Department of Church and Country Life, Presbyterian Church ("Vitalizing the Rural Religious Forces," "The Country Church as a Social Center," "Rural Church Finance," "Rural Recreation Through the Church," "The Church and the Farmer," and "The Village the Goal of Country Life.")

Four by Dr. Benjamin H. Hibbard, University of Wisconsin and former Head, Department of Economics, I.S.C. ("The Decline in Rural Population," "Farm Tenancy in the United States," "Farm Organizations," and "Cooperative Elevators.")

Two by leaders in rural youth programs ("The Social Life of Young People" by Virginia C. Meredith of Indiana and "The Boy and Girl on the Farm" by E. C. Bishop, I.S.C., State 4-H Leader.)

Another talk by Virginia C. Meredith dealt with "How to Live on a Farm."

Five other addresses reported were:

"The Farm Home and Its Problems" by M. L. Nelsen, Missouri Board of Agriculture,

"The Making of a Country Minister" by Rev. R. W. Lilley, Keokuk, Iowa,

"County-wide Cooperation of Churches" by W. M. Parsons, Iowa State Secretary, Y.M.C.A.,

"Factors in Rural Progress" by Rev. Richmond A. Smith, Country Church Secretary, Iowa Baptist State Convention,

"The Wider Use of the Church," by Rev. C. L. Lyles, former pastor, Methodist Church, Logan, Iowa.

1913: Extension Bulletin No. 18 (March 1914) presents 19 "Country Life Conference Addresses," delivered at the Third Annual Rural Life Conference," July 7-19, 1913. Its Foreword, by the editor, starts with the statement:

"In the last minutes of the last session of the 1913 Rural Life Conference at Iowa State College sometimes three or four men were on their feet at a time, eager to add their words to the warm appreciation already spoken. This was the tenor of all that was said in those closing moments: 'We have been inspired; we have been aroused to the importance and dignity of a rural minister's work; we have been given new enthusiasm for it; we have been shown how we may labor more efficiently,

both for church and community. We go back determined to do something for the church, the school, the farm, the home and all that is linked with them.' Then they went further and pledged themselves to report to this year's conference the results of their new labors."

Addresses published in this report included:

Four "Rural Economics" lectures by Dr. T. N. Carver, Director, Rural Organization Service, U.S.D.A. ("The Economic Characteristics of the Agricultural Industry," "The Fundamental Law of Agricultural Production," "The Organization of Rural Interests I," "The Organization of Rural Interests II.")

Six "Rural Sociology" lectures by Clair S. Adams, Department of Church and Country Life, Presbyterian Church, who, it was reported, "served as leader of the Conference in a way that won him the lasting friendship of those who attended," ("American Agricultural Life," "Rural Institutions that are Failing," "The Call of the Church to a Great Task," "The New Farmer and His Home," "An Adequate Rural School," "The Rural Church Problem," "The Village Church and Its Responsibility," and "Some Messengers of Hope.")

Six "Rural Religious Pedagogy" lectures by Rev. Clair S. Adams of the Presbyterian Department of Church and Country Life. ("The Place of Religious Instruction in Rural Development," "The Building and Equipment for Religious Instruction," "The Minister as a Teacher," "The Teaching Ministry of the Church," "The Village Church and Its Responsibility," and "Special Services as Opportunities for Religious Instruction.")

Two other addresses by:

Rev. William Hints, College Pastor of the Methodist Church at ISC. ("The Message of the Church and Minister to the Country People")

Rev. P. Adelstine Johnson, Secretary, Congregational Home Mission Board for Iowa ("Developing the Power of the Rural Church").

Three other statements in the 95-page report were:

- (1) Articles of Agreement of the Cooperative Churches of Oto, Iowa, "submitted to the conference by Rev. P. Adelstine Johnson as indicative of what is being done in some communities toward federation."
- (2) Explanation of Rural and Village Church Surveys by Rev. Richmond A. Smith, secretary of the Iowa Baptist Country Church Commission.

- (3) List of "Valuable Books for the Rural Ministry" supplied by Prof. O. H. Cessna of the Department of Psychology at Iowa State College.

1914: No conference report published as an Extension Bulletin. In the Foreword of Extension Bulletin No. 18, it was noted that a fourth annual country life conference would be held June 22 to July 3, 1914. The committee, chaired by Dean Chas. F. Curtiss, had arranged a program which "includes such speakers as James Wilson, former Secretary of Agriculture; Herman N. Morse, a former minister who is now serving as secretary of the Bennington County Improvement Association in Vermont; Ernest Thompson Seton, leader of the Boy Scout Movement; P. P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education; Luther Gulick and Miss Frances Gulich of the Campfire Girls Movement; Miss Mable Kearney (Carney), a rural school specialist; and Fred M. Hanson, state secretary of county Y.M.C.A. work in Iowa.

"The college provides this program without cost to those who attend and in addition gives them opportunity to attend the agricultural lectures of the summer session." It was further stated in Extension Bulletin No. 18, published in March 1914, that:

"This year the Conference is to receive the organized and systematic support of the leading church societies in Iowa. The state and district superintendents and representative of half a dozen denominations met at the college recently, heard a presentation of the plans and then warmly pledged their cooperation in securing a large attendance of rural ministers and laymen."

1915: No conference report published in the series of Extension Bulletins.

1916: Agricultural Extension Department Bulletin No. 49 (ISC) presents "Country Life Addresses" delivered at the Sixth Annual Country Life Conference, June 19-30, 1916. These addresses included:

Two by Dr. C. J. Galpin, University of Wisconsin ("A Layman's View of the Farmer's Church" and "The Land Foundation of the Small City").

Two by Charles O. Bemis, D. D., pastor of Presbyterian Church McClellandtown, Pa. ("How a Country Church Found Itself" and "The Mission of the Country Church")

Two by Rev. Hudson H. Pittman, Rollo, Illinois. ("The Rural Ministry: Its Demands and Opportunities" and "The Survey of a Rural Parish: Its Method and Results")

Two by Rev. Cyrus E. Albertson, M. E. Church, Owasa, Iowa. ("The Rural Church Problem--'Why the Problem?'" and "The First Steps Toward the Remedy")

Six others:

Dr. George H. Betts of Cornell College. ("The Rural School Problem")

Rev. Wm. H. Kent, D. D., Whiting, Iowa. ("Building Up the Home Town")

Carolyn E. Forgrave, Superintendent of Schools, Dallas County, Iowa. ("Community Cooperation")

Rev. Albert Perry Blough, pastor of the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren. ("Church Leadership in Rural Life")

Rev. C. L. Lyles, Manning, Iowa. ("Manning M.E. Church and the Youth")

Harriett Wallace Ashby, member of staff of Wallace's Farmer. ("The Church in Our Suburb" a story of starting the Urbandale Federated Church)

The Foreword of Extension Bulletin No. 49, published in February 1917, supplies additional perspective on these Iowa Country Life Conferences:

"This Bulletin, published through the cooperation of the Agricultural Extension department, contains some of the more helpful addresses delivered at the 1916 Rural Life Conference at Iowa State College. They were selected with the advice of several of the rural ministers who attended the conference. In making the choice, the interests of the many rural ministers who could not attend were kept in mind. It is hoped that they will carry to those who work in rural fields something of the helpfulness and inspiration which abounded in every session of the conference.

"The 1916 Rural Life Conference was the sixth annual gathering of this kind at Iowa State College. It opened June 19 and continued to June 30. It was held in connection with the summer session of the college and its advantages were opened

to the conference members, particularly the work of the agricultural lecture and classrooms and laboratories. The first nine days of the conference were given over to a definite study of rural subjects, namely, rural economics, rural sociology, religious education, and religious pedagogy. The last three days were devoted to more popular conferences, with experience talks and inspirational addresses by men and women of practical success in rural fields.

"The conference was fortunate in having the leadership of Dr. Warren H. Wilson, superintendent of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. His daily lectures on religious education and rural development were valuable contributions. The work in religious pedagogy was most capably presented by Prof. H. F. Evans of Grinnell College. These men and others did much to give the conference direction, to give it unity in spirit and purpose and to strengthen its fellowship.

"Before its adjournment, the 1916 conference made preliminary plans for the coming 1917 conference, fixing the date for June 19 to 29 inclusive. It was agreed that the general plan of work should be the same and that special effort should be made to interest more of the rural ministers in Iowa and adjoining states.

"Arrangements for the 1917 conference are now taking form rapidly. Already there is assurance of choice leadership and the assistance of a strong group of speakers in addition to the men of the college faculty.

"The college finds in these annual meetings a rare opportunity to serve the open country and it gladly lends its best efforts to make them possible."

(Soon after this report was published, we became involved in World War I emergency programs. Before June 19-29, 1917, home front campaigns for food production and conservation were mobilizing rural leadership resources.)

II. FEBRUARY INSTITUTES FOR CLERGY AND CHURCH LAY LEADERS

Farm and Home Week programs were major winter events at the Iowa State College during the 1920's and 1930's. (The first annual state Short Courses were held in the early 1900's.) By 1931 there was the policy of scheduling an afternoon session to "present a rural sociology discussion program." Related developments the next year initiated annual winter institutes for rural church and community leaders.

The following notes regarding these adult education programs are gleaned from the annual reports and other records in the archives of rural sociology extension work. (Several of the activities mentioned are more fully explained in other sections of this "Historical Resume'.)

- 1933: Dr. Nelson P. Horn, director of Religious Education, chaired a college committee--with the extension sociologist serving as secretary--which developed plans for the Church and Community Leaders meetings held on Monday of Farm and Home Week. Consideration was given to a report on "Objectives for Agriculture" prepared by an Iowa State College staff committee. Featured speaker was Dr. Edmund Brunner rural sociologist of Columbia University. A severe blizzard limited attendance. Only 12 stayed for the afternoon part of the program.
- 1934: The second Iowa Farm and Home Week institute for rural church leaders engaged as major speaker for the day Dr. Carl C. Taylor, head, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life Studies, USDA--widely known rural sociologist and later president of the American Sociological Society.
- 1935: Discussion in this year's meeting was related particularly to the formation of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council. (See Section V of this resume' on "The Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship"--which co-sponsored later Farm and Home Week church leaders institutes, with the ISC extension sociologist working as its secretary, college administrators serving as key leaders and dozens of college staff people contributing as resource persons.)

1936: The institute at this 23rd Annual Farm and Home Week, February 3rd, featured discussions of (1) "Art and Religion in Rural Life," (2) reports on the National Rural Church Conference held in Washington, D.C., January 15 - 17, and (3) a listing of "Iowa rural church problems" by the participants. (Another National Conference on The Rural Church was held at the Iowa State College in November of this year, see section VII of this re'sume' for a review of work with church councils and national convocations.)

1937: Statement from RSE annual report:

"For a period of years the Extension sociologist has had the main responsibility of arranging a program for community leaders on the first day of Iowa Farm and Home Week. It has become a policy to make this Community Life Day and to emphasize the work of churches and the establishment of community ideals. This makes it the logical time for holding the annual meeting of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council. It also provides the occasion for bringing to Iowa State College a leader in this field....Obtained for the 1937 program was Dr. Paul L. Vogt of the Program Planning Division of the AAA (USDA)."

1938: February 7 Dr. Martin Schroeder, eminent Luthern Rural Life Secretary, Bloomfield, Nebraska, was engaged for an address on "Vitalizing Community Life." Continuing a policy started in 1929, Certificates of Merit for "Church Programs of Community Relationships" were presented to 57 churches. (See Section VIII of this re'sume' for further information regarding such recognitions.)

1939: February 13. The featured address, "America's Stake in Rural Life" was by Dr. O. E. Baker, senior agricultural economist, USDA. Part of this meeting was devoted to a discussion of "Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship needs," led by the Rev. Calvin Schnucker of Titonka and the Rev. John D. Clinton of Fayette.

1940: February 12. Registered attendance 123, from 34 counties. "Valuable contributions" reported in addresses by:

Dr. Nat F. Frame, Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfares, USDA and former state extension director in West Virginia, on "Objectives for Rural Life."

Rev. M. R. Zigler, president, Illinois Church Council, on "Essentials for a Statewide Program of Christian Rural Work."

Other leaders contributing included Mrs. Raymond Sayre, chairman, Farm Women's Committee, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

- 1941: February 10. Address by Dr. Carl C. Taylor on "Democracy in the Face of Crises." As was true for most of these institutes, copies of the speaker's address were widely distributed and there was considerable spread of his contributions by press and radio.
- 1942: February 9. Address by Dr. J. H. Kolb rural sociologist, University of Wisconsin, on "Mobilizing Human Resources." institute panel discussed "What are Christian Bases of a just and Durable Peace?"
- 1943: Wartime ICRF board of directors meeting in Des Moines, February 8, (rather than a state meeting involving considerable transportation). Also, a weeks program over Iowa State College radio station, WOI, on "Churches Lead the Way."
- 1944: Annual ICRF meeting at the rural Elkhart Church of the Brethren, February 9, in which attention focused on what was printed on an ICRF card, "At the Heart of Rural Life." During 1944, weekly ICRF programs were presented over stations WOI in Ames and WKBB in Dubuque.
- 1945: "The Tenth Anniversary" annual meeting of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship was held in the Memorial Union, ISC, Ames, February 13, 1945. Speakers engaged for an afternoon forum on "Returning Service Men, the Church and Local Community Adjustments" were the Rev. Thomas Parish, Christian Church, Ames, and Mr. J. C. Johnson, Chief, Education and Training Division, Veterans Administration, Des Moines, Iowa.

Plans announced for the event were commended in Des Moines Register editorial, February 6, which concluded with the sentence: "It strikes us that returning veterans are going to be the better served, in readjusting themselves to normal life in our agricultural communities, because of the foundations that the statewide Rural Fellowship organization has been laying."

1946: February 11, the first day of Iowa Farm and Home Week. The program included:

- challenging statement by ICRF President Kirk Fox and summary of the years work by the ICRF secretary;
- Program Director Calvin Schnucker's statement about the ICRF state rural religious census and his treasurer's report showing a balance on hand, February 1, of \$462.02;
- discussion of plans for the National Convocation on Church in Town and Country to be held in Des Moines November 12 - 14;
- Dean H. H. Kildee's presentation of certificates of merit to 61 churches in 41 counties;
- noon address by Governor Robert D. Blue emphasizing the importance of (1) the family, (2) the church, (3) the school, and (4) government;
- afternoon discussion of "Man's Relation to the Land," and
- business meeting of the ICRF.

1947: February 21. Thirty-three men and women who attended this 13th annual meeting of the ICRF included representatives of nine denominational groups and the Iowa Inter-Church Council, Iowa State Grange, Consumers' Cooperative Association and the Extension Service, Iowa State College. The secretary's report called attention to seven ICRF achievements.

1948: February 9. Highlights of this years institute was an address on "Practical Ideals for Rural Life" by Dr. Joseph Ackerman, president of the American Country Life Association. A panel discussion dealt with "Christian Priorities in Todays World."

1949: February 14. Three major aspects of the day's program were:

- (1) Forenoon panel discussion of "What Should the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship Do in 1949?"
- (2) Afternoon symposium and discussion on "Keeping Pace with World Events."
- (3) Assembly address by Dr. L. L. Dunnington, Iowa City.

1950: February 13. "Again a heavy snowstorm limited attendance... However those participating (16) included key leaders who by

informally discussing problems and programs were able to make definite progress..."...Churches in 57 counties qualified for certificates of merit on their 1949 Church Programs of Rural Relationships."

1951-1961: For this 11 year period the February Institutes sponsored by the Iowa State College and the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship were developed as two-day events. The aim was to provide more intensive training for the clergy in town and country communities than was possible in one-day programs. Professor R. E. LeMoine, then Head of Religious Education in the college, made major contributions in this regard, working with members of advisory committees and the extension sociologist who continued to carry the principal management responsibilities. Summary reports of these institutes were mimeographed for use in follow-up adult education work. They dealt with the themes of :

- 1951 - "The Church and the Rural Community"
- 1952 - "The Church and the Rural Family"
- 1953 - "The Pastor as Counselor and Spiritual Leader"
- 1954 - "The Christian Farmer in a Commercial Economy"
- 1955 - "Churches and Public Agencies"
- 1956 - "Religious Values and Daily Living"
- 1957 - "Freedom and Justice: The Christian's Responsibilities"
- 1958 - "Building Christian Communities"
- 1959 - "Vitalizing Christian Work"
- 1960 - "The Christian Challenge in a Changing Iowa"
- 1961 - "The Responsibilities of the Church for the Rural Family"

1962: Major decisions for planning these annual institutes were made in the spring meeting of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship Board of Directors. Minutes of their meeting held March 13, 1961, include the following statement:

"There was general discussion of the relative value of a two-day Institute. It was pointed out that attendance invariably falls off on the second day, usually about half of the first day attendance. Several reasons were suggested as causes of this, among which are that the second day introduces little new into the program, that many persons

come to be present at the presentation of community service awards, that it is difficult for attendants to be absent for two days, and that some who go home Monday evening with intentions to return Tuesday find it impossible to do so.

"Members were inclined to believe that attendance might be increased by programming the Institute as a one-day meeting, with a tight schedule and compact presentation."

Succeeding Iowa Christian Rural Institutes were planned as one-day programs. These were developed on the themes:

1962 - "The Rural Church and Urban Society"

1963 - "Christianity in Our Democracy"

1964 - "Abundant Living"

1965 - "Purposeful Living"

1966 - "Cooperation in Christian Living"

1967 - "The Church in Community Action"

Seventy attended the 1967 Institute--about the same as in 1966. They were enthusiastic about the program, though not about the weather. It was another foggy winter day making driving hazardous. Contributions, summarized in a radio talk, were again widely distributed and there was reasonably good follow-up in the news. But it was increasingly apparent that the proposition should be re-evaluated with reference to other programs being developed by church organizations and by the Iowa State University. During the spring and summer of 1967 those most involved voted to discontinue this annual Institute.

For 35 years, 1933 to 1967 inclusive adult education work with the clergy and laymen of Iowa town and country churches--and with state and national leaders in this field of endeavor--pivoted on the annual state conferences which have been mentioned above. Each enlisted the most competent talent available. They were followed up in various ways. Much of what is reviewed in other sections of this Historical Resume' has stemmed from these Institute programs.

III. SUMMER INSTITUTES FOR RURAL CHURCH LEADERS

1939-42

Dr. Mark A. Dawber, Chairman, Town and Country Work, Home Missions Council, was a major speaker for the "Fourth Annual Cornbelt Country Life Conference," held at Iowa State College, June 20-22, 1938. George Godfrey, Director of Agricultural Relations, ISU, served as "Resident Leader." Discussion focused on "Town-Country Relationships in Church Work." A mimeographed Institute report was widely distributed, in which it is stated:

"Dr. Dawber urged that steps be taken to hold a State Rural Ministers School at Iowa State.' A planning committee was established: Mr. Godfrey, Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, and the extension sociologist."

1939: "First Iowa Rural Church Leader's Institute" held July 17-21 at Lake Comar (9 miles from Ames). The Advisory Committee of Church Leaders (cooperating with the college committee) included:

Dr. Frank Anderson, Iowa Baptist Conference
Rev. A. H. Barker, Ames Ministerial Association
(who served as committee chairman)
Dr. John W. Bickett, United Presbyterian Churches
Dr. J. A. Dillinger, Iowa Christian Missionary Society
Msgr. L. Ligutti, National Catholic Rural Life Conference
Dr. R. J. Montgomery, Iowa Congregational-Christian Churches
Rev. Richard R. Newby, Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends
Rev. W. A. Winterstein, Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship

Institute leaders named on the printed program included:

Rev. Jack Finegan (camp devotions)
Dr. Paul L. Vogt, USDA, Washington, D.C.
Dr. A. H. Rapking, Methodist Church Board, Philadelphia
Rev. Calvin Schnucker, Titonka
Msgr. J. M. Wolfe, Dubuque
Rev. W. A. Winterstein, Iowa Falls
Miss Jessie M. Parker, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Des Moines
Six other pastors
Eight ISC faculty members

Among the other Iowa leaders contributing were: Mrs. Ellsworth Richardson, Chairman, IFBF Women's Committee and Mr. John P. Wallace, member, State Board of Education who was also president, Iowa Rural Religious Work Council.

Thirty-four ministers registered for this five-day program (not including state church leaders). These were serving churches in 25 Iowa counties.

Six conference reports were presented on the WOI Matins program during the week, which were afterwards published as a mimeographed pamphlet, "Motivating Rural Life."

- 1940: Second Annual Iowa Rural Church Leader's Institute, held at Camp Comar, July 15-19, dealt with "Resourceful Leadership in Rural Life." Printed programs presented statements by six members of the Advisory Committee. There were 11 Institute work committees. The "Staff Who's Who" included 18 men and women. National leaders engaged for the program included the Rev. A. H. Rapking (Methodist), and Msgr. L. Ligutti (Catholic) and the Rev. W. H. Thompson, secretary, The Ohio Council of Churches. Fourteen members of the Iowa State College faculty were listed as contributors. The 83 who registered included representatives of 13 church organizations.
- 1941: Third annual "Rural Church Leader's Institute," July 14-18, 1941, at Camp Comar dealt with the theme, "Youth and the Rural Church." The printed program announced it as "a short course sponsored by Iowa State College with the cooperation of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and an Advisory Committee of Church Leaders." Among the camp leaders were the Rev. Calvin Schnucker, Program Director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and pastor at Titonka, Iowa; the Rev. A. H. Bartter, Chairman, Social Relations Committee, Iowa Conference of Congregational-Christian Churches and pastor at Decorah, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Heald Williamson, Rural Chairman, New York State Council of Church Women, Ithaca N.Y.; Dr. Jack Finegan, Professor of Religious Education, Iowa State College; Msgr. L. Ligutti, Executive Secretary, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines; Dr. O. E. Baker, Senior Social Scientist, B.A.E., USDA, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Rockwell Smith, Associate Secretary, American Country Life Association and Professor of Rural Sociology, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.; the Rev. Ralph Williamson, Secretary, New York, Christian Rural Fellowship, Ithaca, N.Y.; Professor A. D. Mattson, Augustana College and Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill.; and Dr. Mason Olcott, Central College, Pella,

Iowa. Iowa State College faculty (in addition to Dr. Jack Finegan) who contributed included Wm. J. Tudor, R. E. Wakeley, M. D. Helser, George Godfrey, Robert Clark, Tolbert MacRae, Mrs. Pearl Converse, Mrs. Edith Barker, Fannie R. Buchanan, A. H. Hausrath, R. M. Vifquain, and W. H. Stacy. Also carrying leadership responsibilities were nine Iowa pastors. Total registration - 104. Denominational groups represented - 14. 778 copies of 76 Iowa State College publications were distributed.

General recommendations formulated and adopted at the conclusion of this Institute suggested 11 points to be considered in planning the 1942 Rural Institute program. Also adopted by the participants was this resolution: "...that we...make it our purpose and plan to return to our respective fields of service and make every possible effort to put these ideas and suggestions and inspirations into practical use. To seek in some definite practical manner to meet the needs of rural youth in our local communities. To determine that we shall do our share of missionary work in an effort to encourage the attendance of other church leaders at this Institute for the year 1942...also go on record asking that the Short Course Committee at Iowa State College sponsor a fourth Rural Church Leader's Institute at a similar time and place."

1942: Fourth Iowa Rural Church Leader's Institute, July 13-17, 1942, in the YM-YWCA building at ISC. (Camp Comar facilities no longer available) Theme "New Relationships in Rural Church Work." Dr. A. H. Rapking, Department of Town and Country Work, Methodist Church, New York, spoke at the opening session (after an exploratory discussion of "What Are the New Relationships in Rural Church Work?") on "Changes Recognized by National Leaders in Rural Church Work," and led devotionals the next three days. Other leaders, as announced on the printed program, were Iowans:

Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, ISC Institute Committee Chairman, "New Relationships in Iowa Communities"

Rev. Calvin Schnucker, Titonka, presiding chairman and program director, Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, on "Changes in My Parish" (Rev. Schnucker became Head, Department of Rural Church at Theological Seminary, University of Dubuque, September 1)

Howard Hill, farmer, Minburn, "New Relationships Which Farmers are Establishing"

R. K. Bliss, Director, Extension Service, ISC, "Changes by the Extension Service to Meet Wartime Needs"

Rev. Jack Finegan, Head and Professor of Religious Education, ISC, evening address on "The Minister Faces the Future"

W. J. Tudor, Rural Sociology, ISC, "A Get-Acquainted Program"

Dr. M. F. Haygood, Director, Local Public Health Services, Iowa State Department of Health, "Christianity Can Improve Our Health" Also, discussion leader on "How Can a Minister Serve in the Field of Public Health"

Miss Fern Goulding, Assistant Professor of Hygiene, ISC, "New Demands for Nursing Services"

Miss Evelyn Hollen, Nutritionist, State Department of Health, "Eating for Health's Sake"

Mrs. Sarah Porter Ellis, State Leader, Home Economics Extension, ISC, Chairman for discussion of "Planning in Terms of Health"

Herold Kooser, in charge of Visual Instruction Service, ISC, "Using Visual Aids in Church Work"

Dr. I. J. Lubbers, President, Central College, Pella, evening address on "America's Opportunity"

Miss Jessie M. Parker, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, "Common Ground for Churches and Schools"

Mrs. Alma H. Jones, Extension Associate Professor of Child Development, ISC, discussion group leader on "Providing Training for the Pre-School Child"

Rev. Claude W. Cooper, Atlantic, discussion group leader, "Cooperating on Community Events"

Dr. Barton Morgan, Head, Vocational Education, ISC, and Chairman, Rural Education Section, National Education Association, leader of panel discussion, "What New Goal Should We Set in the Educational Field?"

Mrs. Pearl Converse, Extension Drama Specialist, ISC, leader for dramatizations by members of the group

Dr. C. H. Becker, Superintendent, Lutheran Children's Home, Waverly, evening address on "Our Responsibilities to Children"

Francis Johnson, President, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, "Common Ground for Churches and Agricultural Organizations"

Frank H. Mendell, State Coordinator, Soils Conservation Service, leader for discussion group, "Cooperating to Conserve Soil Resources"

Ed Losey, State B.A.E. representative, USDA, leader for discussion group, "Cooperating to Conserve Human Resources"

Murl McDonald, Assistant Director, ISC Extension Service, leader of Thursday a.m. summary session

George Godfrey, Director of Agricultural Relations, ISC, Chairman, Thursday p.m. session

Dr. Rainier Schickele, Department of Economics and Sociology, ISC, "Shaping Agricultural Policies for Tomorrow" (followed by discussion of "How Can a Minister Help to Guide Thought Regarding Agricultural Policies?")

Miss Winifred Martin, ISC Extension Music Specialist, leader
of Thursday evening Institute chorus
Mrs. Raymond Sayre, Chairman Women's Committee, Iowa Farm Bureau
Federation, evening address on "As a Farm Woman Views Her
Community"
Rev. Earl Frantz, Doester Church of the Brethren, RFD, Grundy
Center, Friday a.m. devotionals
Dr. A. C. Bunce, Asst. Professor, Economics and Sociology, ISC,
"Guideposts for a Postwar World"
Dr. W. H. Stacy, Extension Sociologist, ISC (Secretary, Church
Leader's Institute Committee), discussion leader "Our Relation-
ships to Postwar Planning"
Rev. A. N. Rogness, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames. Concluding
address, "Christ's Leadership in a Complex World"

(World War II programs and post-war developments were major factors in the
discontinuance of this summer Rural Church Leaders Institute.)

IV. IOWA PASTORS SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTES 1961, 1962, 1963

In August 1957, the U. S. Department of Agriculture began working more closely with national rural church leaders. Dr. Phillip F. Aylesworth, in the Secretary's Office and Program Relationships, Federal Extension Service spearheaded this work.

Dr. Aylesworth spoke at the 1959 Iowa Christian Rural Institute (Feb. 9-10, "Vitalizing Christian Work") on "Knowing Your Resources." During the ensuing year he brought together leaders concerned with in-service training of pastors and in the 1960 Town and Country Church publication of the National Council of Churches had an article on "In-Service Training Opportunities for Town and Country Pastors at Land-Grant Colleges."

Initiating Steps

Extension sociologist Lawrence W. Drabick referred to Dr. Aylesworth's article and other related developments in formulating a proposal which was discussed with Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, Leader in Sociology, and R. M. Vifquain, Director of Short Courses at ISU. Objectives for an "In-Service Training Program" for pastors were stated tentatively:

To enable clergy and professional church leaders in Iowa to:

- (1) learn and practice appropriate concepts of the social sciences;
- (2) remain abreast of economic and social change in Iowa;
- (3) become acquainted with the many and varied resources applicable to community developments;
- (4) more fully utilize the resources of the Iowa State University;
- (5) learn the means by which these foregoing factors may best be utilized for the welfare of the people of the state;
- (6) discuss common problems in a stimulating and meaningful atmosphere.

Exploratory letters were sent by Dr. Drabick, June 14-15, 1960, to 22 Iowa Church executives. Fourteen encouraging responses were received, from which the following statements are excerpts:

- (1) "I believe it would be a good thing for the ministry of our church"--Rev. Orval H. Cox, General Superintendent, Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends.
- (2) "It seems definitely like a good idea...will be glad to cooperate in any way possible and to encourage and recommend some financial support for scholarship assistance"--Dr. Judson E. Fiebiger, Superintendent, the Congregational-Christian Conference of Iowa. (Dr. Fiebiger quoted the reaction of the State Conference chairman of their Town and Country Committee, the Rev. Norman F. Brooks of Osage, Iowa, who wrote, "a one-week course for two or three years aimed at, or for, rural pastors sounds like an excellent one...long enough to make it worthwhile and not too long to take a man away from his parish for several weeks at one time....")
- (3) The Rev. Edmund A. Kurth (Chairman, Department of Economics, Lucas College, Dubuque), asked by the Most Reverend Leo Binz, Archbishop, Dubuque Archdiocese, to be his representative, wrote for further information. Dr. Drabick's letter answering this inquiry supplies the following pertinent thought about the undertaking.

"...as indicated in my first letter, objectives of such a program would depend in some part upon the response of denominational leaders and the suggestions we would receive at the proposed fall meeting.

"However, we do have broad objectives in mind at present, some manifest, some latent. Among the former are to provide access to the facilities of the University, particularly those related to the social sciences, to the clergy of the state; to provide information in the social sciences which will facilitate interpersonal contacts and expedite group contact and organizational abilities which the clergyman frequently finds incidental to his pastoral duties; to provide information relating to social and economic conditions particularly relevant to Iowa and most particularly in the rural areas; to provide means by which clergy may become aware of the avenues to such information which are available to them through this institution and other sources; to provide information relevant to the background and the current changes in the community, again with emphasis upon the rural; to provide an opportunity for clergymen of widely varying backgrounds to discuss and suggest solutions for the environmental problems they may find to be mutual."

- (4) "It holds some interesting possibilities...I have many questions...am especially anxious to get the viewpoint

of Dr. Edwin Becker who is a member of the Divinity School faculty at Drake and also serves as a member of our staff because of his field work relationships with our student ministers."--Rev. Loren E. Lair, Executive Secretary, Iowa Society of Christian Churches (Disciples).

- (5) "I wish to assure you that we of the Augustana Lutheran Church would be very much interested in in-service training for our men similar to that to which you have pointed in your letter...we are uniting the United Lutheran Church and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church...and on the basis of conversations with leaders in these two units, I am rather sure that they also would be interested in this type of service from the State University."--Rev. Raynold J. Lingwall, President, The Iowa Conference of the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- (6) "We want our ministers to keep up their study. In-service training would be valuable. I should like to be informed if such plans materialize. I think our church could possibly be represented at a planning meeting."--Rev. J. I. LaFavre, Conference Superintendent (Cedar Falls District), The Evangelical United Brethren Church.
- (7) "For a number of years, Midwest Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church has been subsidizing and sending pastors of the Synod to the short course for rural pastors sponsored by Michigan State University...undoubtedly, we will continue...if the program finally set up seems to meet a need of our pastors, we will probably have scholarship funds available for those who wish to attend."--Rev. Ernst Press, President, Midwest Synod, United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed Church).
- (8) "I plan to take the next opportunity to discuss this matter with our Board of Directors...I like your idea of long-range planning of courses, the area of speech and public speaking, courses in administration and church or parish organization, should be included...you are launching out in the right direction..."--Rev. R. J. Schmidt, The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, Iowa District West.
- (9) "We are interested in the program which you suggest. As you know, we offer a short course for our United Presbyterian ministers of Iowa each year during the time of our Synod meeting...on the campus of Iowa State University. Dr. Conaway tells me that you are to assist us in the program this year...we would not want the interdenominational in-service training to take the place of our school...it could well be in addition..."--Rev. Henry C. Schneider, Synod Executive, The Synod of Iowa, United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

- (10) "Since your courses will also include urban work, I am the more interested...I am confident that our Church would co-operate in every way possible to make use of the fine resources of knowledge and direction which your University can give--Rev. Hermann W. Siefkes, D.D., President, Iowa District, American Lutheran Church.
- (11) "I am certainly interested...not only...in hearing more about the plan, but would be concerned also to contribute something toward its success--The Most Reverend Gordon V. Smith, S.T.A., Bishop of Iowa, Episcopal Church.
- (12) "I am heartily in support of this project and trust that it may be carried out on an interdenominational basis--Rev. A. Paul Smith, Executive Secretary, Iowa Baptist Convention.
- (13) "This sounds like a very good idea and am sure that our men will make use of such an opportunity through the years ahead"--Rev. H. O. Thompson, Conference Superintendent (Des Moines district), The Evangelical United Brethren Church.
- (14) "The Church of the Brethren is interested in your proposed in-service training for Iowa Pastors...glad to hear more about this plan...willing to help"--Rev. Ray E. Zook, Field Secretary, Church of the Brethren, Iowa-Minnesota.

Planning Sessions

July 11, 1960, L. W. Drabick wrote 21 state and district church executives, announcing:

"Response to my mid-June communication regarding proposed in-service training for clergy has been great and enthusiastic. As a consequence, we have planned a meeting for September 14 at which discussion may be engaged in by representatives of all interested denominations." He stated:

it would provide opportunities for necessary clarification of
objectives and means
preliminary thinking by responsible persons on the University
staff would be presented
opportunity to discuss other pertinent points
not intended to replace any program now underway
content matter will be completely secular

Representatives of eight denominations participated in the September 14 meeting. They agreed on the potential value of the proposed course. A committee was appointed for further planning. There was follow-up with leaders of four other interested denominations and with the Town and Country Committee of the Iowa Council of Churches.

The dittoed sheet used as a basis for discussion in the September 14 meeting mentioned six items on the agenda and listed "Potential Course Inclusions."

Follow-up planning work developed a five-page statement, "Iowa Pastors In-Service Program in the Social Sciences," to present pertinent information concerning the program to those who might be interested in its nature, costs and method of presentation.

- (1) Purpose--to provide subject matter in the social sciences which clergymen may not have received in the seminary or which may supplement the instruction which they received there...at two levels, theoretical and practical.
- (2) In addition to course presentations, opportunity provided to learn about and discuss conditions and issues in Iowa.
- (3) Program designed on a three-year basis.
- (4) Program not to supplant the Iowa Christian Rural Institute... and not to exclude serving the needs of those from urban areas.
- (5) Schedules of classes for "First Year," "Second Year," and "Third Year."
- (6) Pre-registration form for the first year's program.

First Year

Thirty-one registered for the "First Annual Iowa Pastors' In-Service Program in the Social Sciences," June 19-23, 1961. Two of these were from out-of-state. A steering committee was appointed to guide planning for 1962, which, meeting for a half-hour June 23, determined that an evaluation of the program offerings in 1961 would be helpful in planning for the future. Seven questions were stated in the inquiry. Twenty-six responses were summarized. Abbreviated, these indicated:

- (1) Would attend the second year: 19-"yes," 3-"probably," 2-"probably not," 2-"would not."
- (2) Talking with other pastors: 14-"would strongly recommend that they attend," 9-"would recommend that they attend," 3-"would make no recommendation."
- (3) Level of instruction in the four classes: 4-"somewhat elementary," 20-"sufficiently challenging," 2-"other."

- (4) Concerning the number of hours spent in class or discussion daily: 21-"about the proper time," 4-"less time should have been spent," 1-"other."
- (5) Part of the program which was of most value: 20-"subject matter classes," 4-"Friday panel," 2-"Thursday symposium."
- (6) What should be given more time: 10-"Introductory theme address," 10-"Discussion of submitted questions," 9-"Experts' symposium on theme," 4-"Subject matter classes," 1-"Guided tours of farms and facilities."
- (7) Should course be lengthened to two weeks: 22-"would make it more difficult to attend," 4-"would not influence attendance plans."

Second Year

Dr. Lawrence W. Drabick resigned as Iowa extension sociologist in August, 1961, to accept a position at the University of Connecticut. Returning from two years rural community development work in Korea, (as a "re-employed annuitant," having reached the 65-year retirement mark--as extension sociologist--in July, 1959) Dr. W. H. Stacy was asked to continue work with church programs--including the In-Service Pastors' Program. Arrangements were made, with Dr. Ronald C. Powers and Dr. William F. Kenkel to hold a planning meeting, October 9, 1961, with the Advisory Committee for this program. Thirteen church leaders participated--including representatives from the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, the Christian (Disciples) Church, the American Lutheran Church, Church of the Brethren, the Catholic Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the Iowa Baptist Convention, the RLDS Church and the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. A summary of this meeting (10:15 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.) was dittoed and sent back to members of the planning committee on October 14. It presented summaries of discussions regarding: (1) Evaluations of the 1961 program, (2) Dates for 1962, (3) Announcements and publicity, (4) Classes, (5) Monday program, (6) Afternoon seminars, (7) Friday concluding session, (8) Other program considerations, and (9) Next steps. Classes were planned to deal with "Community Action," "Group Dynamics," "The Family" and "Resources"--all bearing on the theme of "Changing Iowa--Institutional Responsibilities."

Faculty leaders were engaged and a tentative program sent to members of the Advisory Committee in mid-February, 1962. Printed programs were then made available for distribution, the responsibilities for attendance to be assumed by committee members and church executives. Faculty leaders were brought together for a planning session on May 29.

Twenty-one clergymen participated. Some could not attend all the program. Short course attendance reports for the year record 19 registered, as compared with 31 for the previous year. In the total group were: 2 Baptists, 4 Catholics, 1 American Reformed, 9 Lutherans, 2 Methodists, and 3 United Church of Christ. (Eight of the group had participated the previous year.)

Rev. Louis Grossen (United Church of Christ, Melbourne, Iowa) served as chairman. In the last session of the program he asked participants to write statements of their appraisals and suggestions. Twelve of their statements, along with seven "questions stated for discussion with panel of instructors" were dittoed and returned to those who registered, asking for further recommendations.

Third Year

First steps in planning the third year program of the projected 3-year Iowa Pastors Social Science Institute were taken September 12, 1962, in a committee meeting attended by the chairman of the 1962 program committee, a state church worker who helped shape the original plans and four representatives of the University. Consideration was given to:

- (1) Letter of August 13, 1962, from Rev. John George Weber, Executive Secretary, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, saying:
"It certainly is worthwhile and should be continued. I wonder if a 3-day institute wouldn't be more suitable. It is a little difficult for Catholic priests to be gone all week...
"Since I wasn't there for all the sessions, I can't pass judgment. The ones I did attend left me with mixed feelings. Some were good and others were rather elementary. The one on Government and Its Responsibility was a poor presentation. The 'value free' method of the sociologists for the course is contrary to my training and my own standards..."
- (2) Letter of August 8, 1962, from the Rev. Melvin F. Peterson, Bethlehem Lutheran, Vinton, Iowa, saying:

"I believe there should be a follow-up institute next year. During July would seem to me to be a good time. Would it be possible to have a four-day institute, having then perhaps an evening session?

"As to what major problems or aspects of knowledge in the social science field should be covered, I have not definite opinion. However, this being my first year at the Institute, I was made aware of some trends that I was not conscious of at all. So speaking broadly, if the Social Science Department could share with us as stated in the First Objective of the Institute "to share subject matter that is supplemental to previous knowledge"--in other words, make us aware of some of the trends that the sociologist feels has some real reference to the work of the clergyman..."

- (3) Statement from the Rev. Charles R. Martin, Director of the Town and Country Department, Iowa Baptist Convention, reporting on experiences as a faculty member of the Michigan Town and Country Church Leadership School, July 16-27.
- (4) Review of "1962 Iowa Pastors Social Science Institute" dittoed evaluations by 12 participants.

A. Discussions were summarized in a 4-page dittoed statement, "A review of plans for the IOWA PASTORS SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE." Six conclusions were:

- (1) Repeat enrollments are too few to go ahead with the original plan.
- (2) Problems faced by clergymen (others as well) in the realm of subject matter treated in the social sciences are increasingly difficult to solve.
- (3) Scientific workers dealing with such problems are available at the Iowa State University for in-service training programs.
- (4) Certain major interests of clergymen in this field of knowledge--about which "science with practice" is a continuing challenge--included:
 - (a) How church people can progressively relate themselves to constructive community affairs: developing ways of working with leaders in the cooperative extension service and other programs.
 - (b) Social and economic development facts, research statistics, trends, etc.
 - (c) Leadership training: techniques, principles and applications.
- (5) A major headline speaker is perhaps needed, a "name" that can be used in publicizing the event and in keynoting thought. (Dr. Sam Blizzard and Dr. Elton Trueblood were among those mentioned.)

- (6) Along with the class study programs, more special events might be desired, such as evening meetings considering challenges presented by selected motion pictures.

B. During the National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country, October 16-18, 1962, in Ames, there were opportunities to seek suggestions from Dr. Phillip Aylesworth, USDA and in a luncheon session with town and country church leaders of four church denominations.

C. A second planning meeting with church leaders, 1:30-5:00 p.m., November 13, 1962, brought together representatives of eight church bodies: Lutherans (3), Catholic (1), Episcopal (1), Christian (Disciples) (1), United Presbyterian (1), Church of the Brethren (1), Baptist (1), and United Church of Christ (1). (Methodist representative Donald Koontz phoned that conflicts prevented his attendance.) Representing the Iowa State University were Dr. William F. Kenkel, Leader in Sociology; Dr. W. H. Stacy, Extension Sociologist; and Arlo J. Minden, Director of Short Courses. A 5-page dittoed statement summarizing their deliberations served as a guide for further planning.

D. Talent for the program was engaged during the winter months.

E. Promotional work with denominational leaders started in March and April, with pre-registrations coming in during April, May and June.

F. Printed program leaflets were distributed the last of April and early in May.

G. There was further follow-up with the enlisted talent in mid-June.

H. The 19 pastors enrolled for this Institute, which was held July 15-19, 1963, were:

Lutheran

Reverend Milton A. Eklund, Missouri Valley, Iowa (3rd year)
Reverend A. V. Thoren, Jr., Swedesburg, Iowa (3rd year)
Reverend Robert F. Lorenz, Algona, Iowa (1st year)
Reverend Robert Fitzgerald, Leland, Iowa (3rd year)
Reverend Lorentz Flak, Albia, Iowa (1st year)
Reverend H. C. Schiffler, Coatsburg, Illinois (1st year)

Catholic

Father J. W. Bohr, Riceville, Iowa (3rd year)
Father C. L. Keleher, Manilla, Iowa (3rd year)
Msgr. John George Weber, National Catholic Rural Life Conference,
3801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa (2nd year)
Father Francis J. Phelan, Eagle Grove, Iowa (2nd year)
Father Edward J. Shepard, Sperry, Iowa (2nd year)

Christian (Disciples of Christ)

Reverend Bruce B. Mathews, Bloomfield, Iowa (2nd year)
Reverend Loren Works, Charles City, Iowa (1st year)
Reverend Charles D. McKinsey, Mitchellville, Iowa (1st year)
Reverend Wayne R. Ward, Jr., Elkhart, Iowa (1st year)

Methodist

Reverend Dale J. Nicholson, Colfax, Iowa (1st year)
Reverend Darrell V. Mitchell, Sidney, Iowa (1st year)

Presbyterian

Reverend James Elvig, Stanwood, Iowa (1st year)

United Church of Christ

Reverend Robert Marquardt, Lena, Illinois (2nd year)

- I. A committee of three members of the 1963 Institute were asked "to serve as an advisory committee for planning whatever should be done in developing a similar event next year."
- J. An appraisal was prepared for consideration. Reviewing the proposition, the following statement was written by Dr. Kenkel:

"Recently Dr. Powers, Dr. Stacy and I met to do some preliminary talking with regard to the Iowa Pastors Social Science Institute. After reviewing the history of the Institute and considering the various commitments of our staff members, I have decided that we should no longer commit department resources to this Institute. I state the decision with some reluctance, for I am convinced it has been a worthwhile venture. At the same time, the Leadership Training work of Dr. Powers through the Extension Service, the information on population changes made available at the County Extension offices, and the special programs for pastors in the TENC0 area by Dr. Powers, all seem more effective ways

of reaching more pastors. Then too, Dr. Stacy retires from the staff this June. His services in the summer months have been voluntary in the last years and I do not feel I can ask him to continue this after retirement.

"The decision not to continue the Institute means, of course, that it will not be necessary for us to get together on October 29."

V. IOWA CHRISTIAN RURAL FELLOWSHIP

References have been made to the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship in the preceding sections II and III of this historical re'sume'. There will be more about its contributions in sections that follow. Here are statements to indicate its character and summarize its history.

Annual and biennial reports of this agency have been published in Year-books of Iowa Agriculture, 1937 to 1964. An eight-page mimeographed report on "Beginnings of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship" was prepared for its members to discuss at the Iowa Christian Rural Institute in February 1966. Various other printed brochures, mimeographed radio talks, and special reports of its work, along with considerable correspondence about its functions, are on file in the annual reports and archives of rural sociology extension work at Iowa State. What follows has been gleaned from these sources.

ITS BEGINNINGS:

Originally incorporated, April 1935, as the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council its purpose was stated in terms of "promoting in every way, the programs, plans and aims of the churches in their ministry to our Iowa population."

The Iowa Council of Churches did not exist as an operating agency until 1944. There were meager cooperative relationships in those years between Protestant and Roman Catholic churches. Moreover, there was no comparable state program for involving church leaders in Iowa community programs.

At the same time, rural people of the state were increasingly realizing the benefits of cooperative endeavor with systematically planned programs of the ISC Cooperative Extension Service. The "learning to do by doing" idea was growing with trained workers helping concerned men and women to identify problems and work together in solving them. Concerns were apparent and widely recognized by rural leaders regarding the declining strength of churches in town and country communities. This was true in other states as well as Iowa.

A Christian Rural Fellowship association on the international level had been formed under the lay leadership of Dr. John H. Reisner with offices in New York City, which was building understanding of spiritual elements in rural life, related particularly to the work of agricultural missionaries. For

several reasons, (which would require pages to fully explain), the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council was formed as "a group of Iowa's laymen"-- including 19 Master Farmers, Master Farm Homemakers, educators, farm organization leaders and administrators of state programs related to agriculture. The state extension sociologist was asked to serve as its secretary.

PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT:

How this agency functioned during its first 18 years and decisions faced mid-way in its history were summarized in a statement presented by its secretary for consideration in its 1954 annual meeting. Since this supplies much of what is relative to "Adult Education Programs with Church Leaders" it is reproduced here:

"What is the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship? What has it done? How does it operate? Should it be continued? If so, what should be its program in the future and how should it be supported? These and other questions should be raised in this state meeting of rural church leaders. Associations of this type reach periods in our fast changing times when they need to be re-examined. Certainly they should not be continued after the purposes for which they were established have been achieved or no longer exist. They are useful only when they have a vital program that meets a recognized need. Let me present a brief review and then state for your consideration some of the points on which further decisions should be made at this time.

Three Periods

"Since 1937, the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship has had summaries of its program published in the Iowa Yearbook of Agriculture. I wish to quote from the 1950 report where reference is made to three periods in the work of this group with the suggestion that 'these provide background for the fourth which is now beginning to take form.' I shall not burden you with a detailed story, but I believe we are all interested in the following facts, which I quote from that summary.

"First Period: When the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship was first established in 1935, it had the services of a full-time program director, the Reverend W. A. Winterstein. County and district conferences were held. A bi-monthly Iowa Rural News was published. Individual churches were aided and contributions were made to the programs of state organizations. Special attention was given to Rural Life Sunday services. Community studies and county surveys were conducted. Certificates of merit were given to outstanding rural churches in cooperation with the Extension Service of Iowa State College.

"Second Period: Beginning in September 1940 and continuing through the World War II years, the Reverend Calvin Schnucker served as program director on a part-time basis. By this time a number of Protestant church organizations were cooperating officially through the Iowa Inter-church Council (formed in 1943). Attention of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship turned more to action programs and to cooperative relationships with regional and national programs in this field. Contributions were made to church programs related to land tenure and community stability. Improved programs for training rural pastors were initiated. State seminars were conducted dealing with The Role of the Rural Church, Our Christian Responsibilities for International Relations in the Post-War World, and The Christian Rural Family (Reports of these were published in printed or mimeographed form.) At the close of the war a statewide religious census was planned and sponsored which enlisted the participation of 15,000 voluntary workers. Awards to churches continued to be a feature of annual meetings.

"Third Period: Rural relief work for the people of war-torn countries became a major concern of rural church leaders after 1946 and those who were active in the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship bent their energies toward making the Christian Rural Overseas Program succeed. At the same time, with the Reverend Richard O. Comfort (associate of Dr. Schnucker in the Presbyterian Seminary at the University of Dubuque) as part-time program director, the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship extended its influence through cooperative relationships with other organizations interested in rural community life. (Its officers, working with the Iowa Council for Better Education, played a major role in forming the Iowa Association for Adult Education, developing three state community work conferences and establishing foundations for the Iowa Council for Community Improvement.)

"In 1950 the recognition of rural churches for outstanding programs of community service was again one of the major activities sponsored. Those which qualified for certificates of merit, which were presented jointly by the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and the Extension Service of Iowa State College at the Iowa Pastors Institute in February, 1951, included 113 churches in 66 counties. (The Reverend Gene Carter of Simpson College, who served briefly, after Mr. Comfort, as program director on a part-time basis, assisted in broadening contacts of this type with church organizations.,

1953

"Since 1950, no qualified leader has been available to serve as program director and do promotional work for the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship. Its funds are limited. While it is a solvent organization with a small balance on hand from earlier operations, it has no group of regular supporting members.

"What this Fellowship is today is reflected in a report to its Board of Directors meeting held at Ames, April 7, 1953. This group of 21 leaders includes:

"9 pastors and state leaders in church organizations

"4 state leaders in farmers' organizations, rural women's and rural youth programs

"3 representative farm men and women other than officers of state farmers' organizations

"3 members of the Iowa State College staff

"1 farm editor

"1 staff member of the State Department of Public Instruction

"Business transacted in the April 7 meeting (see dittoed report RS209) dealt with:

"1. Plans for the 1954 Iowa Rural Pastors' Institute. A tentative outline of a program plan was discussed and it was voted to adopt or recommend the proposed theme.

"2. Church rural community service awards. Four recommendations were stated for making these recognitions more meaningful.

"3. Rural Life Sunday and Harvest Sunday programs. Five points were emphasized.

"4. Church-community action with older citizens. A committee from the fellowship sponsored the preparation of a study and discussion packet on this subject. (On January 5, 1954, the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and the Extension Department of Iowa State College co-sponsored a Hardin County Senior Citizens' Conference at Hubbard - developed largely by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dreier.)

"5. Follow-up on state and district workshops. Receiving evaluation reports on the 1953 Rural Pastors' Institute, it was noted that relatively few of the participants favored more local conferences in the state. Moreover, it was noted that significant work of this type was being developed by the Iowa Council of Churches.

"6. Churches and Land Stewardship. The extension soil conservationist, L. E. Clapp, led a discussion on this subject mentioning the fact that 1952 reports from soil district commissioners indicated that about 15 percent of the counties had held something in the way of pastors' county soil conservation meetings (see ICRF committee recommendations of May, 1951).

"7. 'Community Tools' for rural church leaders. Brief reference was made to aids available from the Extension Service.

"8. Other business. The discussion also dealt with relationships that ICRF leaders have to WOI matins programs and WOI-TV programs. References were made to plans from the American Country Life Conference (held at Ames, Iowa, October 6, 7 and 8, 1953). It was voted to publish a 1953 Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship News Letter (This four-page statement was prepared early in May and with 'Notes from 1952 reports of 86 churches' was mailed by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to nearly 1,000 pastors in the state.)

Looking Ahead

"Twenty years ago Mr. Winterstein initiated plans for this association that we are talking about this morning. Working closely with the Extension Service of Iowa State College he enlisted the support of many leaders. By considerable sacrificial work on his part, an Iowa Rural Religious Work Council was formed - which in 1935 took the name of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.

"A Fellowship is an association of persons interested in a common purpose. Organizational affiliations are secondary and representatives of all the major religious bodies in the state have freely cooperated in the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship plan. We will agree that its limited resources have been used to excellent advantage. On its Board of Directors we have a good cross-section of rural church leadership. They are the ones who are authorized to direct its policies. But I am sure I speak for them in asking for opinions in this meeting regarding two propositions:

"1. Should the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship be disbanded? If so, many of its interests would doubtless be carried on by the Extension Service of Iowa State College, by church groups and by organizations which have been formed since this association was initiated 20 years ago.

"2. If it is to be continued should it launch out on a new and stronger program and if so, how can it best be supported? What are its chief assets and how can they be used to best advantage?"

CONTINUING INTO 1967:

In the Iowa Book of Agriculture, 1960-1961, it was reported that the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship was "formed in 1935 as a correlating and planning body of rural leaders and clergy working together in the interest of emphasizing spiritual elements in rural life and strengthening the work of churches in rural communities. Its objectives are broadly stated in the slogan, 'Every family in Iowa sharing the best in character, in culture, in living, and actively identified with the church of its choice.' It serves as a means whereby resources are mobilized..."

Financial resources were never available to employ a full-time program director. After 1957 those who had contributed most in its early years became more and more involved with responsibilities in other programs.

Yet this Fellowship association continued to help develop the Iowa Christian Rural Institute and carry on other functions related to its objectives for another 16 years. Then, after its 1967 annual meeting (attendance again limited by severe winter weather) its board of directors and members voted that it be discontinued. In arriving at this decision it was noted:

"Its major functions are now being developed in other ways."

"The idea of cooperative endeavor is now firmly established in major church organizations."

"Social change during the last 30 years has established what is essentially an 'urbanized society'."

Transferring a financial balance (\$116.76) to the George Freeman Award Fund of the ISU Alumni Achievement Fund, its treasurer, the Reverend H. LaVern Kinzel, commented, "This now closes the account and I suppose brings down the curtain on the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship. Indeed it has lived a good life and fulfilled a great purpose."

PRESIDENTS:

The representative nature of the ICRF Board of Directors has been noted above--for 1953, a representative year. The policy was adopted early in its development of including on this policy-forming body about equal representative of clergy and lay leaders--alternated in selecting state chairmen. Perhaps nothing indicates the character of the association better than noting that its chairmen (or presidents) included:

- A. Member of the State Board of Education (Regents): John P. Wallace, 1935-1943. (George Godfrey, a former member of this Board served as vice-chairman during most of this period.)
- B. Editor of Successful Farming Magazine: Kirk Fox, 1945.
- C. National Catholic Rural Life Conference: Msgr. L. Ligutti, executive secretary, in 1951, and Reverend Fr. Cletus Kelcher (Archdiocese Commission) in 1965.
- D. State Farm Women Leaders: Mrs. Roscoe Eleason, 1950, and Mrs. C. C. Inman, 1954, (each chairmen, Farm Womens Committee, IFBF), Mrs. William H. Yungclas, 1956.

- E. Denominational leaders of Town and Country Work: Reverend A. Bartter (Congregational-Christian) 1944; Dr. Claude W. Cooper (Methodist) 1946; Reverend Paul A. Miller (Church of the Brethren) 1953; Reverend Charles R. Martin (Baptist) 1955; Reverent Gerhart M. Bunge (Lutheran) 1957; Reverend Frielie Conaway (Presbyterian) 1959; Reverend John M. Tews (Missouri Synod Lutheran) 1961; Reverend Clarence D. Sink (Church of the Brethren) 1963.
- F. Leaders of Farm Organizations: Milford Beeghley (Farmers Grain Dealers Association) 1947; E. Howard Hill (Iowa Farm Bureau Federation) 1952; Kenneth Langer (Iowa Farm Bureau Federation) 1962.
- G. Theological Seminaries and Colleges: Dr. Calvin Schnucker (Presbyterian Seminary, University of Dubuque, 1948; Reverend Gene Carter (Simpson College) 1949; Dr. William Jameson (Presbyterian Seminary, University of Dubuque) 1966.
- H. Retired farmers who had carried many responsibilities in church and community: W. H. Dreier, 1958; Martin Lauterbach, 1964.
- I. Outstanding young farmers: Kenneth Joslin, 1960.

VI. DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAMS

Churches (like most other institutions and organizations in communities) are units in organizational structures. Educational contributions made through their denominational, or diocesan, leaders and programs are strategically significant. Many members of the Iowa State (College) University staff have made such contributions.

This historical re'sume' records mainly work of a sociological character, dealing chiefly with factors in church-community relationships. It is taken largely from records in the annual reports and archives materials of Iowa rural sociology extension--which was initiated July 1, 1922.

All phases of the Iowa sociology extension program with churches have been planned and developed in cooperation with key leaders in church organizations. Such activities have been interrelated. Those which can most clearly be documented as associated with established denominational programs are identified as follows.

Baptist

(The American Baptist Convention)

- 1934: A series of extension discussion outlines on "Social Planning" were used with a Baptist young peoples group in Boone county and later at the annual State Baptist Assembly in Iowa Falls (11 sessions with 10 ministers and 10 young people).
- 1946: Contributed to the training school session sponsored by the Town and Country Committee of the Iowa Baptist Assembly.
- 1950: Led three discussions dealing with "Christianity at work in the Community" in the Iowa Baptist Town and Country Pastors School at Dunkerton, May 2.
- 1956: Conferred with Dr. Mark Rich, long-time Baptist national leader in town and country church work. (Baptist state and national leaders have consistently spearheaded much that has been developed in cooperative church work.)

Catholic

- 1932: At the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, in Dubuque, October 19-21, (about 400 in attendance), the ISC extension

sociologist was one of the speakers at the luncheon program on the first day. Two circulars were placed at each plate (mimeographed report of the ACLA Cultural Arts Survey and printed bulletin listing extension program helps for community meetings). The talk dealt with services available from the Iowa State College and the scope of rural cultural activities. "This meeting gave new emphases to the rural life programs conducted by the Catholic clergy in rural communities in Iowa," according to the report.

- 1936: Conferring with Msgr. J. M. Wolfe, director of education in the Dubuque (Iowa) Archdiocese (and Mr. Winterstein of the ICRF) arrangements were made for his address at the opening of the National Conference on the Country Church (Protestant) in Ames November 23-25.
- 1946: Working with Dr. Paul Sacco, director of the Catholic Farm School at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, two days were devoted to "giving leadership training along the line of rural community organization and rural leadership."
- 1949: Spoke at the Catholic Seminarian Conference, in Wisconsin, on "Church and Farmers Organizations."
- 1951: Sessions were arranged with leaders in the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Des Moines.
- 1954: "The fact that Msgr. L. Ligutti, director, and the Rev. Michael Dineen, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference have their offices in Des Moines, Iowa has contributed a great deal to cooperative relationships in rural church work in this state. They have helped develop the major statewide programs that have been reported...Also, the extension sociologist was among those participating in the 32nd Annual National Catholic Rural Life Conference held in Davenport, Iowa in October, 1954."

Churches of the Brethren

- 1938: State meeting at Dallas Center, November 29, considered "relationships of the church to rural problems," the extension sociologist

- was invited to speak and to lead one of the discussions. (200 ministers and lay members attended) Concerns focused on population and farm tenancy trends, rural relationships of churches, and realistic social living. Also participating was the Rev. M. R. Zigler, national rural church leader for this denomination and Chairman of the National Inter-church Town-Country Committees.
- 1944: Led discussions of church-community relations in three district conferences.
- 1945: Helped conduct two district conferences of church leaders.
- 1949: Led discussions of "cooperative agencies that serve our rural communities" and "how lay members serve the local church" in two district rural-urban conferences of this denomination.

Christian (Disciples of Christ)

- 1945: Drake University Church Workers Conference, where the extension sociologist served as leader in five sessions.
- 1955: Met with a class of seminarians of the Divinity School, Drake University, (this was under the leadership of Dr. Edwin Becker, director of rural church work in the school, formerly national director of rural church work for his denomination and, for a period, treasurer of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship).
- 1958: In January, 1958, there was a second opportunity to spend an evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Becker with 10 seminarians in training for work in town and country churches (which most of them were then serving). This discussion focused on "church-community cooperation."

Friends

- 1942: The extension sociologist presented two talks in their annual Rural Pastors Short Course, at Penn College, Oskaloosa.

Evangelical and United Brethren

- 1941: "An invitation to address the Annual State Conference of the United Brethren Churches in Muscatine, September 18 was significant

for two reasons.

"(A) Of the 92 United Brethren churches in Iowa, 47 are in the open country, 10 in villages of under 500, 18 in towns of 500 to 2,500, 7 in cities of 2,500 to 5,000 and only 10 in cities of over 5,000 population.

"(B) The chairman of the church conference committee on rural life, Reverend Fred A. Riggs, of Ames, sent an inquiry in advance to all ministers in the denomination to obtain opinions of church members relative to five questions. A summary of these statements served as a basis for the address given by the extension sociologist..."

1949: Addressed the Rural Life session of the annual United Brethren Conference.

(Note: The United Brethren Conference later merged with the Evangelical, and in 1967-68 with the Methodists.)

Lutheran

1933: Dr. P.O. Bersell, President, Iowa Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Synod, wrote May 1, reviewing ISC extension programs, saying: "You offer the churches aid in solving some of the problems, especially of rural churches, so as to make them more effective in their ministry."

1936-37: Helped (with the Mr. Winterstein of the Iowa Rural Religious work Council) enlist the Rev. E. W. Mueller (then pastor at Martensdale) in a Warren county religious census and church planning program.

1943: Participated in arranging and conducting an American Lutheran Ministers Rural Institute at ISC, in October, which was led by Pastor E. W. Mueller and Dr. E. A. Biedermann of Des Moines.

1944: Spoke at the National Clinic on the Country Church, at Strawberry Point, Iowa--organized by leaders of the American Lutheran Synod in Iowa.

1945: Counseled with the Rev. E. W. Mueller on program plans for his new work as Director, Town and Country Church Work in the National Lutheran Council.

- 1946: Contributed to Lutheran (1) District Rural Life Conference at Grafton, (2) Regional Workshop in Ames, and (3) Anniversary Program at Wellsburg (United Lutheran Church).
- 1947: Addressed conference of Norwegian Lutheran Rural Church Leaders at Calmar.
- 1950: Conferred, at Wartburg College, Waverly with Dr. E. W. Mueller, Professor Glazer, Pastor A. W. Malin (United Lutheran) and others regarding church rural community programs.
- 1951: Participated with Dr. Mueller in three national meetings where there were opportunities to review plans for 4 programs. Met with 40 Lutheran rural church people at Grandview College, Des Moines, April 5, discussing "How can church leaders be more effective in community work?"
- 1962: Several Iowa State University faculty members participated in the National Lutheran Council (Church in Town and Country, Division of American Missions) workshop on "The Church's Concern for Town and Country Communities in Mid-America," held in the Memorial Union on the ISU campus.

Methodist

- (Note: The constituency of Methodist churches includes about 20 percent of all church members in Iowa.)
- 1931: At the South Iowa Methodist Conference in Creston, the extension sociologist presented certificate of merit awards, for programs of church-community relationships, to five churches (see section VIII below on Church-Community Relationship Recognitions).
- 1934: Served at the Methodist Young People's Conference, at Lake Okoboji, as teacher for two classes--one on "social planning" and the other dealing more specifically with industrial problems. Participated as a resource person in the Upper Iowa ME Conference at Fayette in November.
- 1935: A second year at the Lake Okoboji Methodist Young People's Conference, as teacher of groups considering "Economic Problems of the Farmer" and "Group Relation"--using a different discussion method approach in each of the 10 sessions (inquiry, panel, symposium, discussion of a report, forum, exploratory discussion, interchange of experiences, check-sheet, parliamentary procedure, and review outline).

- 1937: Cooperated with District Superintendent in developing a discussion of community problems and rural life trends in district conference of ministers at Fayette, Iowa (75 attending).
- 1938: Addressed N.E. Iowa district conference, discussing population trends, conservation of physical resources, community self-surveys, and rural relations programs of churches. Also conferences during the year with Dr. A. H. Rapking, national director of town and country church work for Methodist churches and with leaders of Methodist Rural Life Commissions in Iowa.
- 1939: At Summer School for Rural Pastors, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, taught a graduate level course on "The Rural Community."
- 1940: Contributed to the program of the Methodist district conference, at Hampton, September 20, and discussed rural church work at the Methodist Bible Conference, Okoboji Methodist Camp, August 1.
- 1944: Assisted in the Methodist Area (Iowa and South Dakota) leaders conference on "Programs for returning servicemen."
- 1950: Cooperative planning with Methodist state workers on the use of ISC community materials, plans for Methodist conferences, and adult education programs of church women's societies.
- 1951: Quadrennial National Methodist Town and Country Church Conference held at Sioux City, with ISC extension sociologist serving as chairman for sub-group dealing with "Stewardship of Leisure Time" and helping formulate a statement outlining church programs in this field for (1) young children, 12-15 years old, (2) 15-19 years old, (3) older young people, (4) "average" adults, and (5) older adults.
- 1952: At Methodist Rural Fellowship meeting of the North Iowa Conference (35 attending) the extension sociologist discussed parish surveys and church-community relationships. Materials used included (1) "Suggestions for a Parish Survey (RS-90)," (2) "Roster of Iowa Speakers on Community Action," (3) "Strong Communities Build Strong Democracy," (4) "Community Machinery," and (5) "Father

and Son Agreement." (Similar materials were supplied, upon request, for the Methodist State Town and Country meeting in Des Moines, in January, 1953.)

- 1954: Participated in one of the district Town and Country work conferences held in September, where Dr. E. J. Niederfrank, USDA extension sociologist was one of the speakers and in follow-up planning with Professor Donald Koontz of Simpson College (Methodist State leader for Town and Country Church Work).

Presbyterian

- 1927: The extension sociologist participated in a state Presbyterian conference.

- 1942: The Reverend Calvin Schnucker, program director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, on September 1, became director, Department of Rural Church, Presbyterian Theological Seminary, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa. In October, 1942, the ISC extension sociologist was invited to appear on three programs at this seminary:

1. Wednesday afternoon--round table discussion of "Additional Responsibilities Thrown Upon Pastors and Expected of Churches at Present."
2. Thursday morning chapel--talk on "A Layman's Opinion Regarding the Pace of the Rural Church in Iowa."
3. Thursday evening meeting with the University faculty on "Rural Leadership for Tomorrow."

- 1943: In the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship News Bulletin of October, 1943, there was the following statement about what was called "The Iowa Plan for Rural Church Training."

"...with the Iowa State College...and the Presbyterian Seminary at Dubuque, your Program Director has arranged courses to emphasize Rural Church Work to strengthen the effective ministry of the theological students.

"During the past five years, both the theological seminaries and the agricultural colleges have been speaking about and working toward cooperative relationship which would make possible a

and Son Agreement." (Similar materials were supplied, upon request, for the Methodist State Town and Country meeting in Des Moines, in January, 1953.)

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"During the past five years, both the theological seminaries and the agricultural colleges have been speaking about and working toward cooperative relationship which would make possible a

consistent theological training for men who were to serve in town and country churches. The following course is a result of such thinking.

Descriptive

"The course will be divided into two sections. The first section will be held in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Dubuque beginning November 2 and ending December 17... on the seminary campus...to conduct courses in six areas.

"(1) November 2 to 5--Underlying Philosophies in Rural Life-- Msgr. L. Ligutti (National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines).

"(2) November 9 to 12--Rural Agencies and Organization--W. J. Tudor (ISC Extension).

"(3) November 16 to 19--Trends in Rural Education--Barton Morgan, Ph.D. (Department of Education, ISC).

"(4) November 30 to December 3--Music and Recreational Activities--Winifred Martin, (ISC Extension).

(Note: Reverend Schnucker, January 14, 1943 wrote the extension sociologist, "We are having a grand time here at Dubuque in our first Recreation Leader's Institute. Having expected twenty to twenty-five to attend, we are quite swamped with the fifty eager people who are in attendance. Miss Martin is doing a very good piece of work.")

"(5) December 7 to 10--Building the Rural Community, W. H. Stacy, Ph. D., (ISC Extension).

"(6) December 14 to 17--Developing and Channeling Rural Leadership--Ray Wakeley Ph.D. (ISC Sociology).

"....Arrangements can be made to receive credit for these courses on either a BC or Fh B. degree.

"The second section will be held on the campus of the Iowa State College...beginning June 12, 1944 and ending July 19, 1944. Information courses and field trips covering three areas will be developed.

"(1) Animal Husbandry (Identification of leading strains of livestock, care and feeding of livestock, etc.)--W. F. LaGrange (ISC Animal Husbandry).

"(2) Agronomy (Types of soils, identification of major crops, soil conservation, principles of how things grow, etc.). B. J. Firkins (ISC Agronomy).

"(3) Farm Management (Tenancy systems, best use of labor for soil, combination of enterprise, credit and finance, book-keeping, etc.)--W. J. Murray, Ph.D. (ISC Agr. Econ.)"

- 1945: "For a 3rd consecutive year teaching assistance was given in the Rural Community Relationships Course at Dubuque University."
- 1946: One day was reported "with classes at Dubuque," (With the enlargement the Theological Seminary staff, the "first section" of the original plan was taken over by the resident faculty at Dubuque. The "Farm Survey" course at Ames was continued through 1963, with a minimum of 15 seminary students each year--the subject matter taught shifting to include classes in rural organization).
- 1948: Talks given on "Six Things that are Right With Churches" at State meetings of the United Presbyterian and the Iowa Synod, Presbyterian Church, USA.
- 1953 (and several years following): Participation in the Short Course for Town and Country Pastors held annually by the Presbyterian Synod of Iowa at Iowa State College (University) for a week in June.

United Church of Christ
(Merger of Congregational Christian and
Evangelical Reformed)

Msgr. Ligutti of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference once wrote the ISC extension sociologist that he didn't appreciate "non-working Protestants." He was expressing appreciation for what is reported below as one educator's associations in the church-community relations programs of his own denomination--now the United Church of Christ. Annual reports of rural sociology extension work in Iowa include the following notes. (Part of this work was on vacation time.)

- 1931: "For the fourth or fifth year the extension rural sociologist has served as one of the members of the Social Service committee (men) of the State Congregational Church. This has given him an opportunity to maintain an active working relationship with those who are responsible for developing church programs." Six churches of this denomination received certificate awards for church-

community relationships programs in the 1931 state meeting at Council Bluffs. (see part VIII of this Historical Resume)

1936: "Cooperated with the State Conference Committee on Town and Country Work in making and reporting surveys."

1941: "The principal activity of the Social Relations committee was study of the church and community situation around the Burlington Area Shell Loading plant. Meetings were held in the Burlington, Danville and Denmark churches the first of June (a) to assure the people of these communities of the interest of the entire state in the proposition and (b) to study ways in which specific aids could be supplied. Notes on the hearings were published in Social Action bulletins of the National Congregational-Christian Church Conference.

"Serving as a member of the Iowa conference program committee, contributions were also made by the extension sociologist to the annual state church meetings at Newton the forepart of May."

1946: "Being a member of the Ames Congregational Church, the extension sociologist has had some of his most close-up experiences with the actual problems of both volunteer and professional leaders in work with this denominational group. During 1946 he (a) served as chairman of the men's work committee of the local church, (b) acted as chairman of the Laymen's Fellowship for the Des Moines Association, (c) functioned as a member of the State Social Relations Committee, (d) attended the national Congregational-Christian convention in Grinnell -- participating in "Social Action" group discussions dealing with agricultural policies, which was followed by submitting a statement that was published in the September, 1946, Social Action magazine, and (e) helped promote attention to a very successful demonstration program of taking the church to the people in the Keosauqua Larger Parish."

1948: "Spoke on 'Six Things That are Right with Churches' at a state laymens meeting, led discussions in two district meetings of church laymen, worked with the state and midwest regional social action committees of the Congregational Christian churches, helped plan and direct the program of the southwest Iowa-Des Moines

Association larger parish, spoke in church meetings at Urbandale, Kelley and Gilbert, served as chairman of a committee...for the publication and distribution of a condensed statement of the findings from a recent survey by Dr. Ross Sanderson."

1949: Five items reported (1) serving on the advisory committee for a cooperative parish, (2) participating in two district conferences, (3) working on the state Social Action committee, (4) reviewing a rural church survey report at the state meeting, and (5) serving on the national Social Action Agricultural Relations committee for Congregational Christian churches.

1950: Participated in the National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life, February 16-19, in Detroit, as an advisory committee member of the national Social Action Council.

1953: Three propositions recorded in the R.S.E. annual report:

(1) Serving as denominational representative on the Town and Country Commission of the Iowa Council of Churches (see following Section VII).

(2) Participating in the annual Iowa Congregational Laymen's meeting (August, 1935, which was attended by the national (Dr. Walter Graham) and state leaders of men's work in the churches.

(3) As chairman of the Social Action committee of the Ames church, and as a member of the national advisory committee for the Agricultural Relations Department, Council for Social Action, attended a two-day meeting in Chicago, January 21-22, followed up by correspondence. "This aspect of church work merits special consideration. History records great conflicts related to social ethics and relationships of religious groups, with despotism taking over in many situations where Christian churches or other religious institutions have been indifferent to social justice; as in Russia, Germany (during the pre-Hitler period), Argentina, Spain, China and Japan. Yet, to be effective in this area of human experience churches must find ways of doing better educational work. Personal religious faiths are basic, but without the 'social gospel' they may be armed at 'escapism' and formalities which support the accusation that 'Religion is the opiate of the people'."

1955: Working with National Social Action Council member J. S. Russell, (Farm Editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune) the extension sociologist helped to arrange, conduct and summarize a national meeting, held in Chicago, January 21, on "Christian Ethics and the Surplus Problem."

VII. INTER-CHURCH COUNCILS

The ecumenical movement among church leaders was beginning to gain momentum in the 1920's and 1930's. This was the period when Iowa State College employed its first extension sociologist--July 1922. State extension sociologists in those days considered themselves "group work specialists." Logically, they became involved in endeavors to develop cooperative inter-church programs. The following items, gleaned from RSE annual reports, illustrate this fact.

Ministerial Associations

1925: (1) "Early in the spring a request came from the county agent in Mills county for assistance in organizing a county association of ministers. This developed out of a suggestion by one of the Malvern ministers that there should be a minister-farmer meeting similar to the bankers-farmer meeting which had been held early in the winter.

"Such a conference was scheduled the first Tuesday in March. A survey which was made preliminary to the meeting by the county agent showed that there were 41 churches or church buildings in the county. Of these 20 were served by resident pastors, 6 served by non-resident pastors while 11 were classified as inactive and 4 as dead.

"Very fine interest was shown in the meeting. It was attended by 19 of the ministers (9 Methodist, 3 Presbyterian, 3 Baptist, 2 Christian, 1 Latter Day Saints, 1 Congregational), the president of the Farm Bureau, the president of the local community club, the county agent, the extension specialist in rural organization (sociologist) and a couple ladies who were wives of the ministers.

"After a luncheon the rural organization specialist used an hour in explaining the history of farmers organizations in Iowa...

"The county agent...made a few remarks about cooperation...

"One of the ministers then explained...that there was a need for a working unit such as a county organization of ministers. This proposition was discussed by most of the ministers present. It was

moved that steps be taken to organize a ministerial association. A committee of three was elected to develop plans and report at the Sunday School convention which was scheduled for March 31..."

- (2) "In November interest of a similar nature developed in Ringgold county. Their meeting was scheduled with the ministers following the county leaders conference which was held November 6. However, conditions made it difficult for people to get in on that date and after informal discussion with five or six ministers who were present it was decided to postpone plans for anything in the nature of county organization until another larger meeting could be held."

1926: "A special effort has been made to invite rural pastors to the county leaders conferences which have been held during the fall of 1926."

1929: County conferences of pastors were held in Marshall and Tama counties.

1931: A rural program was scheduled for the April meeting of the Buena Vista county ministerial association. Attending were 11 ministers from 5 communities, the county Y.M.C.A. secretary, the county agents and the extension rural sociologist. Discussion developed thought regarding (1) distinct resources in rural life, (2) interests of churches in coordinating rural forces, and (3) church unity plans.

Another county conference of ministers was attended in Marshall county, October 26, related to decisions at the April meeting of state church executives to consider the results of a Marshall county church survey. Discussion dealt with population trends, economic situations, rural life resources, and church organization problems.

1940: "During 1940 the Extension Sociologist was invited to discuss rural church problems and rural church programs with the members of the following county Ministerial Associations: February 19--Story county, attendance 15; May 28--Wright county, attendance 12; June 10--Cass county, attendance 12."

1941: "In county ministers meetings in Kossuth and Muscatine counties, the extension sociologist discussed community planning and church work..."

1950: "On March 6, in accordance with a request which came through the county extension director, the extension sociologist met with the members of the Poweshiek County Ministerial Association and their wives (24 attending) to lead thinking on rural community relationships. Emphasis was placed on group discussion techniques and community council programs."

1956: Two meetings with county ministerial associations:

Sac County, October--Ministerial association and county officials following up on the 1955 Iowa Christian Rural Institute dealing with "Churches and Social Agencies."

Iowa County, November--following up on a county conference earlier in the year dealing with "Churches and Social Agencies" and cooperative relationships with Iowa State College.

Iowa Council of Churches

1931: "At the initiative of Dr. J. R. Hargreaves, field secretary, Home Missions Council, and Dr. L. Myron Boozer (executive secretary of the State Presbyterian organization) Ames, a study was initiated in March to secure up-to-date facts regarding the church and religious education situation in a typical Iowa county. This study was projected in a meeting in President Hughes' office. It was undertaken for the specific purpose of securing facts to be brought to the attention of church executives at a meeting called (for April 28) by R. M. Hughes, President, Iowa State College, and Dr. L. Myron Boozer, acting president, Council of Churches." (See Section IX for further documentation of "Surveys and Analyses").

In this conference the extension sociologist presented a summary of "Sociological and Economic Facts Affecting Church Adjustment in Iowa" which at the request of church executives was mimeographed--Ext. CD 6, 16 pages.

Four objectives were stated in the report of the Findings Committee reporting at this state meeting of church leaders.

1. Election of a Continuation Committee of three members to handle three tasks.
2. "That through the efforts already made in that direction and through the Continuation Committee named above a state council shall be set up which shall have effective official contacts with all denominations, to serve as machinery in all matters of cooperation among the churches."
3. "That a state convocation be called at time and place to be agreed upon through the Continuation Committee. The call of this convocation to be a joint invitation in the name of the individuals present at this Ames meeting (39 registered), the State Council of Churches, and any city councils of churches which will join in the invitation. The purpose is to face the whole task of the Kingdom as it appears in Iowa; to become aware of the contributions which are being made and the service being rendered by churches of all denominations; to discover the basic strategy of the Kingdom for Iowa; to create in the mind of the church a will to cooperate which will provide the support needed by field executives in their endeavors to inaugurate cooperative activities and projects; to create and set to work machinery for the doing of things that need to be done along these lines."
4. "...to utilize the survey of Tama and Marshall counties, by calling some sort of central gathering in that region where the facts discovered may be brought effectively before the laymen and ministers of the churches and steps taken to correct the weaknesses, oversights and errors shown." (See above item about the meeting held October 26.)

1932: "The Extension Service cooperated with the state committee of church executives and the Des Moines Council of Churches in the program of the first Iowa Convocation of Ministers in Des Moines, January 1932. At this meeting the Extension Rural Sociologist presented a summary of the standards of living objectives in a talk 'A Study of Iowa Conditions.' Mimeographed copies were placed in the hands of the 125 who were in attendance. The Extension Rural Sociologist also served as member of the general committee planning this convocation."

1935: "The Iowa State Council of Christian Education conducts an annual conference for young people, ages 15 to 23...eighth annual conference...October 31 to November 2...extension sociologist was

asked to handle one of the discussion groups... 'Youth Action in Community Morals.' Thirty young people and three ministers attended each of the two sessions.

1940:

"In April the extension sociologist, as secretary of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, was invited to attend a meeting with Dr. Paul Douglass of the International Christian Union Movement and Dr. Mark C. Dawber, chairman of the Town and Country Committee of the National Home Missions Council. He advised that Dr. O. C. Herbrecht, secretary of the Iowa Council for Christian Education be invited to this meeting and it was arranged April 17 when a number of church leaders were in Des Moines for a meeting called by Dr. Herbrecht.

"This meeting doubtless contributed to interest in later state meetings of church executives. The extension sociologist had opportunity through individual conferences to keep in touch with the activities of Iowa church leaders in the interests of church unity."

1941:

At the Iowa Pastors' Convocation, February 5, the extension sociologist was invited to speak on "Should Iowa have a State Church Council?" He stated four points of agreement and suggested 12 tasks. Also, emphasized that leaders setting out to establish an Iowa Church Council would have help at their command such as:

- (a) The best thought of able professional religious workers.
- (b) The hearty support of many laymen who are aware of the need for effective church organization.
- (c) The support of the Iowa Council for Christian Education.
- (d) The support of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.
- (e) The support of religious leaders from other states and from national offices.
- (f) The support of many conference groups.

1950:

"When the Iowa Inter-church Council was formed (from the Iowa Council for Christian Education) in 1944, the extension sociologist... was asked to serve as chairman of its Rural Life Commission and has continued to serve in this capacity. On this Commission there are delegated representatives of eleven statewide church

denominations. (The extension sociologist was designated as such a representative of the Congregational-Christian churches.) Its main functions during 1950 were to:

- "(1) Sponsor a rural church exhibit at the Iowa State Fair.
- "(2) Initiate Church and Family Farm Institutes.
- "(3) Help develop (a) CROP, (b) church awards and the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship program, and (c) the National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country.

"The Iowa Inter-church Council through its secretary, Dr. J. O. Nelson, has also cooperated in developing state community work conferences and in promoting attention to rural leadership aids published by the Extension Service, Iowa State College."

1953: "Few rural social organization problems cause greater concern in more communities, than do the struggling, overlapping, competing and often ineffective efforts of small, noncooperative churches. Church council programs offer the greatest hope for their solution. An encouraging amount of Christian statesmanship is being developed in this respect. Representing church and community interests of the state-wide Cooperative Extension Service, the extension sociologist has had excellent opportunities to make contributions at a number of points."

Six items, with 12 sub-items were mentioned in this part (pages 25-27) of the RSE annual report. These included:

- (1) Helping plan a Rural Church Leaders Conference, held at Parsons College, October 20-21, 73 registered. Dr. J. O. Nelson (executive secretary, Iowa Inter-church Council) wrote, "We had six national directors of Town and Country Church Work, plus Don Pielstick of the National Council...a wonderful meeting." Dr. Ray E. Wakeley represented ISC sociologists. The conference was reported in the Town and Country Church magazine of the National Council of Churches, April 1953.
- (2) Annual meeting of the Iowa Council, where the extension sociologist chaired the committee meeting on Town and Country Church work.
- (3) Meeting of Montgomery county church leaders (following upon the Fairfield Conference) who formed a county ministerial association, and planned to launch a religious census and Teaching Mission involving all churches.

- (4) District conference of church and community leaders at the English River Church of the Brethren (also a follow-up on the Fairfield Conference). 75 men and women from 6 churches participated. A panel discussion led by the extension sociologist dealt with rural social trends--later summarized for (a) the Iowa Council house organ., (b) the June 1953 ISC Extension Program Service for Rural Leaders, and (c) a report to county extension workers and rural leaders. Suggestions were offered for dealing with the questions: (1) How many people do we want in our community? (2) How much can we expect of volunteer workers? (3) How to keep in touch with world affairs? and (4) How to develop local programs?
- (5) Cooperation with the Church Planning and Adjustment Commission of the Iowa Council to encourage adjustments aimed at adequately churching rural communities.

1955: Extension sociologist (now participating more distinctly as a consultant member of the Iowa Council's Rural Life Commission rather than denominational representative and committee chairman as in the Council's earlier years) attended 3 planning meetings, helped conduct a Leadership Training Conference for 40 church workers in Jefferson county, and maintained contacts with a half dozen of its other state wide activities.

1962: "Iowa Consultation on Long Range Planning" sponsored by Iowa Council of Churches and National Council of Churches was held in Marshalltown, November 5-6. Dr. Eber Eldridge, extension economist, ISU, in the first address of this conference, presented a statement on "Significant Trends in Iowa." The (semi-retired) extension sociologist, as one 122 invited members, participated mainly in the workshop session on "Church and Community."

Conferences and
National Convocations on the Church
in Town and Country

1936: "About one-fourth of the time given to church work was in relation to the National Conference on the Country Church which was held at Iowa State College in November...15.7 days.

"On November 2 a letter was forwarded to all rural churches in Iowa by Director Bliss...

2

"The conference was discussed in each one of 33 county meetings held during the summer months.

"Leaders of the college met November 2 to consider conference plans...Aproximately 200 professional and lay leaders registered for the meetings.

"On December 4 a follow-up letter was sent to all who registered, forwarding copy of the Extension Program Helps circular,...Agricultural Economics Facts leaflet, and a statement regarding the exhibits which were arranged for the meetings."

1937: "The National Conference on the Country Church...was an important milestone in the development of rural church work in Iowa. Some of the facts discussed were considered again in the county country life conferences. Fifty copies of the report were distributed to interested individuals."

1945: "Further consideration was given to the proposition of having the next national convocation on the Church in Town and Country in Iowa. ODT regulations and other war conditions made it inadvisable to go ahead with such a meeting in 1945."

1946: "The 1946 National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country was held in Des Moines, November 12-14, 1946. This was under the auspices of the Committee on Town and Country (Home Missions Council, Federal Council of Churches and International Council of Religious Education). The Iowa Inter-church Council played a major role in developing the program and arranging for the event. The extension sociologist (1) participated in program planning conferences, (2) helped to publicize the program, (3) served as chairman, discussion leader and co-summarizer for Commission No. 4 which dealt with "The Church and Rural Community Agencies."

This Convocation offered the chance, also, for the extension sociologist to arrange a meeting at the National Catholic Rural Life Conference office, in Des Moines, of Dr. Don E. Pielstick, (Town and Country Church leader in the Federal Council of Churches), and Dr. E. W. Mueller, (director of Town and Country Church work in the National Lutheran Council), with Msgr. L. Ligutti (Exec. Doc. NCRLC).

1949: The extension sociologist participated in the "Convocation" held in Lincoln, Nebraska, November 8-10, "where there were opportunities to confer with national (Town and Country Church) leaders, extension workers in Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and USDA, and hold planning sessions with Iowa committees." Developments were reported to extension administrators, who passed items from the report on in the Extension Staff Newsletter.

1954: Continuing a policy of participating in these "National Conventions on the Church in Town and Country" when held in the Mid-west (Columbus, Missouri, 1950, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1953) with the Rev. R. E. LeMoine, director of Religious Life at ISC, the extension sociologist (and 46 other Iowans) attended the meetings held at Salina, Kansas, October 26-28, 1954. Reporting to the extension administrators it was stated:

- "(1) It is important that extension work be kept tied in with rural church work and I was the only representative of the Cooperative Extension Service who participated. Workers in this field are increasingly saying that Iowa pattern of relationships in this regard is the best in the country and one that they wish could be duplicated in other states.
- "(2) Significant contributions were made to the analysis of rural social problems.
- "(3) Considerable attention was given to values in rural living.
- "(4) Valuable contacts were made and renewed with state and national leaders."

1956: Dr. Richard O. Comfort, Director of Town and Country Church Work, National Council of Churches (formerly at Dubuque University and Program Director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship) invited the extension sociologist to help set up the discussion phase of the 1956 National Rural Church Convocation program (held in Des Moines). Reporting this to college administrative leaders it was stated:

- "(1) The extension sociologist conducted a 45-minute discussion period involving all participants in the convocation.
- "(2) Iowa experiences were discussed with others in two of the Commission groups.
- "(3) Contacts with state and national leaders, along with several Iowa pastors, helped to advance plans for Iowa programs."

1962:

Quoting from the published 89-page report:

"The 1962 Convocation met at the Memorial Student Union of the Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, October 16-18, There were 503 registrants from 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada, with more than 75 others who came for special purposes. (16 denominations were listed as having been represented.)

"The Convocation was begun in 1943 because of the conviction that there should be a regularly held gathering. National conferences had been held before under church auspices, in 1916 and in 1936 (see above). It was felt that there must be a continuous process. The decision to inaugurate the Convocation, and the journal, Town and Country Church, was considerably hastened by expressions of opinions as to their need on the part of prominent laymen in the churches."

This Convocation dealt with "The Challenge of Change for the Church in Town and Country." Among the speakers, whose addresses were printed in the report, were the following of Iowa State University:

Dr. James H. Hilton, President, speaking on "The Land Grant College: Past and Present."

Dr. Earl O. Heady, Executive Director, The Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment, speaking on "Agricultural Adjustment."

Dr. Roger Lawrence, Specialist, Extension Methods and Studies, speaking on "Techniques of Communication."

Dr. Marvin Anderson, Associate Director, Cooperative Extension Service, speaking on "Rural Areas Development."

Dr. W. H. Stacy, Extension Sociologist (on "Reemployed Annuitant" status) served as Chairman of the University Arrangements Committee.

Related Teamwork

Related to the above items, documenting certain adult education contributions by Iowa State (College) University faculty members to teamwork endeavors in (1) ministerial associations, (2) the Iowa Council of Churches, and (3) the National Convocations on the Church in Town and Country, mention should be made of:

1. Study conferences and institutes sponsored by departments of the Federal (later National) Council of Churches. (For further information see section IX below.)

2. Close working relationships with Dr. Benson Y. Landis (Federal Council of Churches), Dr. E. W. Mueller (National Lutheran Council), Msgr. L. Ligutti (National Catholic Rural Life Conference) and others in programs such as the national conferences of the American Country Life Association.
3. Contacts with the World Council of Churches. The Rev. Raymond E. Maxwell, Associate Executive Secretary in the U.S. of the World Council of Churches, New York, was engaged as principal speaker for the 1963 Iowa Christian Rural Institute on "Christianity and Democracy."
4. Working relationships with local councils of churches. In the 1950 RSE annual report there is this item: "Laboratory experience in cooperative work was gained (and perhaps contributions made) by the extension sociologist through serving as president of the Inter-church Council in his own community (vice-president when it was established in 1945 and president since September 1946)."
5. Christian Rural Fellowship. Helpful relationships were maintained (when and after the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship was formed in 1935) with Dr. John H. Reisner, New York, secretary and treasurer of this contributing international group working "Toward a Christian Rural Civilization."
6. Experiences of the extension sociologist in other states and countries such as:
 - (a) February 1941, two talks on the Rural Church Day program of Kansas Farm and Home Week.
 - (b) June 9-July 15, 1941, faculty member for Southeastern Workshop in Community Development, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina
 - (c) June, 1945, a series of 5 lectures by the Iowa extension sociologist at the annual short course for rural ministers in Nebraska.
 - (d) June, 1947, talk at University of Purdue Leadership Institute.
 - (e) September, 1952, Participation in UNESCO Institute on "Adult Education and Citizenship Responsibility", in Hamburg, Germany (while on a 3 months U.S. Department of State project, "Rural Research for Adult Education")
 - (f) August, 1959-July, 1961, associations with missionaries while serving in Korea as a Near East Foundation specialist for training leaders in rural community development.

7. Christian Rural Overseas Program documented in 3 RSE annual reports as follows:

1948-"Serving on the executive committee of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) as a representative of Iowa Inter-church Council (also of the ISC Extension Service and of the Iowa Congregational Christian Conference) the extension sociologist has helped formulate campaign plans and select leaders for this undertaking (emergency food relief for people in areas devastated by World War II). The goal for 1948 is 300 carloads from Iowa counties."

1949-"The Iowa CROP campaign in the winter of 1948-1949 yielded the equivalent of 391 carloads of corn for overseas relief. It demonstrated that rural people in Iowa could mobilize forces for a service program. The 1949 annual reports of county extension directors present story after story of effective organization effort. The extension sociologist represented extension administration on the state CROP executive committee."

1958-"As had been true previously, the extension sociologist, in 1958, represented the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service on the Iowa Committee for CROP...This work involved correspondence and consultation with the state director on various occasions and participation in a January meeting. (An out-of-state schedule conflicted with participation in the main state meeting in the early fall.)"

8. From 1947 RSE Report: "Another type of contribution to church-community relationships has been made through work on Kiwanis Support of Churches committees (in Ames Club and Nebraska-Iowa District). The final part of the annual District meeting program at Marshalltown in October included a panel discussion organized and presided over by the extension sociologist."
9. Work with YMCA's and YWCA's. The 1926 RSE annual report noted: "As one member of the town and country work committee of the State YMCA some special attention has been given to this agency. There are a half dozen county units in the state doing splendid rural work. In addition, the State Secretary, Mr. Ryall, has shown sincere interest in cooperating in developing community programs." In 1944 it was further noted: "Led discussion of community organization principles in YMCA Midwest Area Conference on rural work. For this the checksheet discussion guide 'Machinery for Community Action' was prepared."
10. There has been planning at the national level focused on "Cooperation between Theological seminaries and Agricultural Colleges." The Iowa extension sociologist participated in the first committee meeting called to consider this proposition, in Chicago, during the summer of 1939 when he was teaching at the Garrett Biblical Institute. It was noted in the RSE 1940 report that President Charles E. Friley and Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, leader in Sociology at Iowa State College,

made contributions to committee work studying this proposition. (Dr. D. E. Lindstrom, extension sociologist at the University of Illinois acted as chairman of the group.) Two years later, 1942, there was the following report:

"Believing as stated by Dr. Murray Leiffer, professor of sociology, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, that 'we are not going to solve basic problems in rural church work except by interdenominational work and by drawing in as many agencies as possible' a group of leaders have been working together for two and a half years to develop better types of cooperation between Agricultural Colleges, Theological seminaries and national church workers. This group held a meeting in Chicago, Saturday, September 27, 1941, which was attended by the extension sociologist of Iowa State College. In this session attention was given to (a) college training for ministers, (b) graduate training for rural church leaders, (c) discussion materials for church groups, (d) plans for financing the rural church and (e) short course schools. A complete report of the sessions is on file in the extension offices."

11. Teamwork bearing on church-community relations has no geographical boundaries. Reference has been made above to contributions made by representatives of the World Council of Churches (with which an Iowa extension sociologist has long maintained personal contacts in the "Friends of the World Council" group) and to overseas programs. More particularly (a) there have been cooperative relationships with the work of Agricultural Missions, Inc., and associations with the Iowa School for Agricultural Missionaries, and (b) service connections with leaders of Christian World Missions. The latter may be illustrated by the following notes about an event during the winter of 1958-1959.

"Miss Marjorie Stewart, from London, had been advised to spend time in Iowa for the purpose of learning about church and community work in the United States (her only stop in this country except in New York City and on the West Coast). In a follow-up letter, she reported: '...an invaluable visit. I found the college quite delightful, so friendly and happy. I was grateful to bring away such excellent material to guide me in my programs, there is so much practical value in the various techniques, and in a new situation suggestions like those are a good starting point for working things out.'"

Miss Stewart had had years of experience working in Jamaica and Africa. She had been director of the Tropical Community Development Center in London for the YWCA. She was on her way to the South Pacific as Women's Interests Officer for the South Pacific Commission (made up of the United States and five other governments) which was "established in 1948 as a regional advisory body to recommend means for furthering the economic and social welfare of the island people." Specialists had been supplied in various fields, with foundations and non-governmental organizations helping to develop projects approved by the Commission. A Women's Interest Project was worked out with the South Pacific Research Council (an arm of the Commission) with the United Church Women, as a non-partisan interdenominational organi-

zation, supplying a staff worker "to advance the position of women." One of their leaflets stated "women are being recognized as persons with ideas and ambitions in the remote regions of the South Pacific."

Arrangements by the extension sociologist on this proposition (conferences with leaders of 15 Iowa programs) were made through contacts with Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, director, Christian World Relations, Department of United Church Women, National Council of Churches, and in cooperation with officers of the Ames United Church Women. Mrs. Hymer explained that Miss Stewart's "work will act as a pilot project with women to promote their participation in community affairs."

12. The 1958 RSE annual report mentions "Occasional brief visits and correspondence with the Reverend Lloyd H. Olson, Regional Director, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Des Moines," This group has had able leadership in Iowa. They have made significant contributions to adult education and community teamwork.

VIII. CHURCH-COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

Goals and achievement recognitions play vital roles in human endeavor. Cooperative Extension Service programs incorporate scores of these features. A pattern for emphasizing balanced programs of local units in the Iowa Farm Bureau--Extension had been developed in the mid-1920's.

Plans for recognitions to help develop church-community relationships were formulated in 1929. Seventeen hundred and thirty-seven certificates of merit were awarded over a 35-year period, 1929-1964, to 621 churches--including churches in every Iowa county--with major church organizations (at least 15, plus the Iowa Council of Churches) participating. It received excellent support from the news media and the best of cooperation from farm organizations, educational institutions and other agencies serving rural communities. Attracting national attention, it served as a pattern for similar programs in other states.

Annual reports of rural sociology extension work in Iowa record steps in developing this operation. The following excerpts, along with related items, when pieced together document this aspect of "Adult Education Programs with Church Leaders."

1929: "In February, steps were taken to outline the Iowa Class A Rural program. Definite arrangements began at a committee meeting in Grinnell...

"The St. Mary's Catholic Church at Panama (Shelby county) Iowa, received the first certificate of merit as having developed a Class A Rural Program. (Its priest, Father M. B. Schiltz had been secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.) The Church of the Brethren in Orange township (Black Hawk county) submitted complete reports and qualified the first of January for the second certificate. The first certificate was issued just previous to the national meeting of the Catholic Rural Life Conference in Des Moines and the American Country Life Association conference at Ames. The plan was brought to the attention of national leaders in rural church work who were in attendance at these meetings...the reaction from all angles and particularly from the national church leaders seems to be very favor-

able for the principle behind this plan of directing attention to the churches which have the best rural programs and which are the forces for community growth in rural communities.

"A brief story of the recognition given the church at Panama, Iowa was published in Better Iowa (weekly ISC news service to newspapers) October 28, 1929...it was used very extensively throughout the state. Wallaces' Farmer, editorially, November 16, 1929, made the following statement:

'We like the plan adopted by the extension folks at Ames, by which certificates of merit are given to country churches coordinate the forces of church and rural organization for community growth.'

"The emphasis in the specification for recognition in this plan is on the fact that first of all the primary service of the rural church is spiritual (the appraisal of which is distinctly within the province of church leaders) but, secondly, there should be some definite rural characteristics of a progressive type. Three specifications in this are:

- "1. That the pastor shall be a member of a farm organization and receiving the information received by members as to the purpose and work of the organization. (See statement below regarding "associate F.B. memberships.")
- "2. That the church shall have in its membership the leaders of activities developed in cooperation with county representatives of the state agricultural college and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- "3. That the church, in cooperation with leaders of farm organizations, shall once a year develop an annual Rural Life Sunday program,"

1931: The extension sociologist devoted 12.6 days (4.5 field, 8.1 office) "to correspondence and conferences relative to awarding certificates for achievements by rural churches."

"Certificates were awarded to 19 churches in 18 counties; (1929 - 2 churches, 1930 - 4 churches).

1933: "This plan provides for definite cooperation between church executives and the Extension Service. The number certified in 1932 included 20 churches with representatives of 6 Protestant organizations." Supporting this fact were notes of interest expressed by leaders of six denominations:

- (1) Christian (Disciples of Christ)--Rev. J. A. Dillinger, executive secretary, state Christian Church Conference. "wholeheartedly committed to the plan and has adopted a very vigorous policy of promoting it."
- (2) Methodist--Southern Iowa Conference "went on record at its annual convention in September in favor of cooperating with the Extension Service of Iowa State College in promoting rural programs of churches and...appointed a special committee...to promote attention to the achievements considered in the Class A Rural Program Plan."
- (3) Presbyterian--"certificate that was presented...at the annual state convention...was favorably received. The recognition... in 1932 was given at a district meeting. The new development opens up the way for appointing a state committee that will give increased attention to the rural programs of Presbyterian churches during the coming year."
- (4) Congregational Christian--"For the fourth consecutive year one of the luncheons in the State Conference has featured the presentation of Class A certificates."
- (5) Churches of the Brethren--"...these churches are as interested as ever in the type of cooperation outlined in the Class A plan. The next national convention of this denomination will be held in Ames."
- (6) Lutheran, Augustana Synod--Dr. P. O. Bersell, President of Iowa Conference, in a letter, May 1, 1933, wrote:
"The Lutheran rural churches have held their own perhaps better than some others, partly because in our methods of auxiliary organization we try to take care of not only the spiritual but also the social needs of the various groups. But there are many rural Lutheran churches that could make use of your suggested program to great advantage and thus link the community life more definitely and helpfully to the church life, which is a consummation devotedly to be wished. This has been ably demonstrated by the success of the Rev. Albert Ericson in Nyman, Iowa, whose church

was awarded a Class A certificate." (Another encouraging statement from this letter has been quoted above.)

1935:

Eight recognitions presented for Class A Rural Programs.

It was noted in the RSE annual report that "apparently the slackening of interest in the Class A programs during 1934 and 1935 was due, at least in part, to the fact that the extension sociologist was off-duty and away a total of eight months during those two years. Very little personal effort was put into the proposition. Still interest appears to be good among many who are familiar with the plan." (2.2 days devoted to this proposition in 1935, compared to 12.6 days in 1931.) Two of the opinions quoted were:

- (1) "I want to extend to you and Professor Bliss the thanks of myself and congregation for the certificate which was nicely presented to us by Bruce Kilpatrick (county agent) at our celebration Sunday. We had a fine day and a great time together in the observance of the occasion."--Rev. T. J. Pettit, Hillsdale M. E. Church, Pacific Junction, Iowa, June 17, 1935.
- (2) "Presentation of the Iowa State College certificate of merit to the Ziegler Memorial Lutheran Church, served to call attention to a schedule of activities which has kept pace with the increasing tempo of the current age--in a day when many rural churchyards are grown over with grass and weeds, and when services are held for many such congregations only intermittently"--quoted from editorial, Muscatine Journal, August 27, 1934.

The two major qualifying specifications for this recommendation were stated more clearly in this 1935 RSE annual report (P. 55):

"First, there is recognition of the fact that primary service of the church is religious or spiritual. No church is certified which is not approved by officials within the church organization as having a strong religious program...

"The second major requirement is 'Progressive community relations.' In measuring this element, such things are considered as:
(1) Does the pastor hold an active or associate membership in the local unit of a farm organization and thus follow the viewpoint and

programs of these organized groups? (2) Has the church cooperated with other rural agencies in developing a Rural Life Sunday program? (3) Does the church furnish from its membership local leaders for one or more rural educational activities developed in cooperation with the county representatives of the Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture, such as 4-H clubs, Home Project Work, Farm Projects, Cooperative Marketing Activities?"

There was the further statement: "Questions may logically be raised regarding the merits of this plan for recognizing outstanding rural programs of churches. Some of these are:

- "1. Designation: Would 'Type A program' be better than 'Class A program'?
- "2. Outline of the Spiritual Program: Can it be restated to better interest all churches?--Catholic and Protestant?
- "3. Rural programs: Are the three points mentioned the most important?
- "4. Church and State: Is there danger in this relationship of church and state?
- "5. Story: Should the report feature the history of the church more than it does?
- "6. Helps: Should and can Iowa State College promise more specific help to these churches?"

1939:

"Since 1929 the Extension Service has been cooperating with church leaders (and since 1935, with the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship) in awarding certificates of merit to the churches that develop programs of rural relationships. In the 11-year period, 130 different churches have been recognized (in 65 counties).

"At the annual meetings of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship on February 13, 1939, awards were made for reports which showed 1938 programs of the type specified. The 36 churches which received certificates included members of 11 different religious groups... (One was Msgr L. Ligutti's Catholic Church of the Assumption, Granger, Iowa.)

The Des Moines Register, February 13, 1939, had the following perceptive editorial on "Deserving Awards to Country Churches."

"Thirty-odd Iowa churches will be awarded certificates of merit by the extension service and the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship at Ames today. They have earned the awards by providing leadership in local rural educational programs, by cooperating with schools in developing character education, and by holding Rural Life or Harvest Home Sundays.

"Special credit is due them because of the difficulties under which churches in rural Iowa operate. When large sections of the community shake the dust of the place off their tires by March 1 every year or so, it undermines the stability of church congregations. Yet nearly half the churches winning the awards are situated in counties with more farm land in tenancy than the state average. Nearly two-thirds of them are in counties with more tenant mobility than the state average.

"For example, the Indianola Friends church wins a certificate, though in Warren county. 45 percent of the tenants had been on the same farm but two years or less. So do the Bear Creek Friends church near Earlham and the Methodist church in St. Charles, though in Madison county. 43 percent of the tenants had been on the same farm two years or less. So does the Forest Chapel United Brethren church near Anamosa, although farmers in Jones county owned only 47 percent of the farm land they operated.

"Under these handicaps, contributions to rural community life are the more difficult--and the more needed.

"There are tales of heroism and high adventure in the country pastor, often living on an incredibly small salary, so graciously giving himself and his family to the service of his church and his fellow man. The same is true of the devoted church worker who gives so freely of his time and tithe that the congregation may be truly a coming-together. Not mud nor snow nor weariness of flesh halts them.

"Such men and women as these enrich the community where they are found--the more so when their efforts extend beyond their own congregation and embrace the whole community. Never was decoration better earned."

A single sheet, two-page application form (CD-5) was used in the late 1930's to obtain reports of "Rural Relations Program for Iowa Churches." It listed as sponsors "Bishops and superintendents of church groups, the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and the Extension Service of Iowa State College." As the Rev. W. A. Winterstein, program director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, helped develop understanding of the proposition throughout the state, the number of churches reporting and qualifying for recognition increased-- 8 in 1935, 56 in 1936, 57 in 1937, and 36 in 1938.

1940: Forty three churches were recognized in 1940 for their 1939 programs. Quoting from the 1940 RSE annual report:

"At first the designation used was 'Class A Rural Programs of Churches.' Later in order to more distinctly emphasize co-operative relationships the reports and certificates called attention to 'Programs of Rural Relationships.' The plan has been modified a third time so in 1941 certificates of merit will be presented for 'Rural Community Service.'"

1946: "For about 20 years a policy has been followed of awarding certificates of merit to rural churches in Iowa which report that in addition to supplying spiritual programs they have members serving as volunteer leaders in carrying forward community service activities. This plan is actively supported by the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship. In February 1946, Dean (and Director) H. H. Kildee in behalf of the ISC Extension Service and the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship awarded 64 such certificates. (For a complete list see 1945 Iowa Yearbook of Agriculture.)"

1947: "The awards were presented at the annual meeting of the ICRF by Dean and Director H. H. Kildee to representatives of 65 churches."

"New report forms of an improved type for use during the winter of 1947-1948 were prepared by the program director and the secretary of the ICRF at an August meeting in Waterloo."

1948: Eighty-four churches recognized, February 9, included churches located in 55 counties and affiliated with the following denominational groups:

Baptist.....	11
Church of Christ (Disciples).....	4
Congregational Christian.....	6
Evangelical and Reformed.....	2
Evangelical-United Brethren.....	3
Lutheran (4 groups).....	12
Methodist.....	25

1949: Ninety churches in 53 counties received these recognitions, February 14. All but 4 were represented at the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship annual meeting. Included were:

Baptist.....	17	Evangelical and U.B..	5
Catholic.....	3	Friends.....	1
Christian (Disciples)....	9	Lutheran.....	14
Church of the Brethren...	2	Methodist.....	27
Congregational-Christian..	5	Presbyterian.....	6
Evangelical Reformed.....	1	United Presbyterian..	1

1950: "One hundred and eighteen churches, in 62 counties, representing 12 denominations or national religious bodies were given certificates of merit February 13, 1950, directing attention to (a) religious training provided by its church and (b) community work in which their members served as leaders...The awards...are publicized by press and radio and followed up with letters to each church. Several letters of response and appreciation are on file. During 1950 the blank used was revised and printed as a 4-page "Program Planning Guide and Report Form"...Promotional work is carried on through church leaders, county extension directors and local pastors who have been previously associated with the proposition." (The new form provided for having the report submitted by "Representative of church board or committee." It did not require signed approval by a district or state church executive. However, the reports received were appraised by a committee which always included one or more state professional church leaders.)

1952: "Adult education efforts are most significant when they help motivate people to work toward important goals. The plan of presenting certificates of merit to churches...operates with a minimum of overhead to advance Christian work in Iowa communities. Facts to be reported for 1952 include the following:

- "a. Seventy-eight churches in 50 Iowa counties received certificates of merit...Publicity focused statewide attention on the progressive aspects of their work and local presentation programs added significance to the awards.
- "b. The report blank was revised in February and March. Two modifications were made:
 - (1) inviting churches to make a special statement regarding new programs initiated and special projects,
 - (2) stating that 'awards of distinction' would be made to one church in each of five size classifications: memberships of 100 or less, 101-200, 201-500, and 501 and over. (No church being eligible for this award two years in succession.)...Also, provision

was made for giving an unspecified number of 'Honorable Mention Rewards' to churches whose reports are judged to be distinctly above the average.

"c. ...promotional work for 1952-1953 initiated in July through:

- (1) state church leaders
- (2) county extension directors
- (3) churches that have been interested the preceding year
- (4) the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.

"d. A summary of Iowa experience in 'Recognizing Church-Community Relationships' was published in the January, 1952, issue of Town and Country Church (National Council of Churches)."

1953:

Eighty-six churches in 52 counties were recognized for 1952 programs. These included: Baptist 9, Catholic 4, Church of the Brethren 3, Church of Christ (Disciples) 9, Congregational Christian 10, Evangelical United Brethren 3, Lutheran 5, Methodist 31, Presbyterian 7, Reformed 1, United Presbyterian 2, Union-Community 2.

Notes from reports of the 5 churches receiving "Awards of Distinction" were published in the March, 1953, Program Service for Rural Leaders and items about all 86 churches were mimeographed in a statement (RS212) which was mailed to church leaders, with an ICRF Newsletter, by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to its list of approximately 1,000 associate pastor members.

"National and state church leaders have commended this plan of helping to focus attention on vital church work in rural communities. Kentucky is now operating a similar program. Wisconsin and other states have the proposition under consideration."

In the 1953 RSE annual report the following statements were made about the new Program Planning Guide and Report Form (CDG 12).

"Annual awards of certificates of merit are made on the basis of these reports, with the aim of emphasizing community service relationships of churches in town and country. (County-seat town churches were eligible if they met the specifications.) Such recognitions have been given to churches in all Iowa counties..."

"...Churches render a distinct service as they influence motives, promote vision, develop relationships and help train leaders for worthwhile community service activities..."

1954: "Extension work is a 'doing' program which has achieved a great deal of its success by the demonstration method of teaching. Since 1929, the Iowa Extension Service has operated a plan of presenting annual citations to churches that report demonstrations of successful 'Rural Community Service Programs'...The management part of this program is largely handled by the extension sociologist (6.3 days credited to this work in 1954). Each year it includes:

- "(1) Arranging for 'processing' the reports, presenting the certificates and publicizing the awards.
- "(2) Following up with a letter to the churches that receive certificates focusing attention on their purpose, encouraging continued effort and sending blanks which may be used again the following year.
- "(3) Conferring with church leaders at every opportunity to 'keep the ball rolling.'
- "(4) Sending statements regarding the plan at least twice a year to county extension directors.
- "(5) Maintaining contacts with a number of individual churches."

1955: Reporting the 1955 presentations on February 7, Dean and Director Floyd Andre noted:

- "(1) This is the 25th year... .
- "(2) Restatement of plan and purpose.
- "(3) Reports received this year from churches in 62 counties have been approved by an awards committee--Dr. Loren Lair, President, Iowa Council of Churches and Rev. Charles R. Symmank, associate pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Ames...
- "(4) A total of 98 certificates are being presented, one of which goes to a (larger) parish program (Presbyterian) that includes six local churches so that a total of 103 churches are represented. Judges stated 'All of the reports are good.' There was only one reject which indicates that the plan is becoming better understood and churches send in reports only when they can qualify.
- "(5) ...This years top awards ('merit with distinction') go to:

- "(a) ...less than 76 adult members: Rock Branch Methodist Community Church...Woodbury county.
- "(b) ...75-150 members: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church...Pleasant Valley, Scott county.
- "(c) ...151-300 members: Gilman Community Church...
- "(d) ...301-500 members: Christian Church, Estherville...Emmet county.
- "(e) ...over 500 members: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, West Point...Lee county."

"It has been a policy not to feature denominational aspects of this program. No publicity is given to the number from each group. However, for the records, it should be noted that the 103 churches recognized in 1955 included: 34 Methodist, 14 Presbyterian, 13 Congregational Christian, 11 Christian-Disciples of Christ, 8 Baptist, 8 Lutheran, 6 Churches of the Brethren, 5 Evangelical United Brethren, 2 United Presbyterian, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Community.

"During 1955 steps were taken to strengthen this plan...The proposition was reviewed by a staff committee, appointed by Director Andre and Associate Director Anderson, composed of Professors Ray E. Wakeley, R. E. LeMoine, George Beal, Carl Malone and the extension sociologist W. H. Stacy. A supplementary report from (CDG 12-A) was developed to focus attention on program development procedures and to obtain more information on progress during the current year. The date for reporting was also moved up to January 16, allowing three weeks for following up with the churches that qualify for recognition...These changes met with the approval of church executives and of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship..."

"This proposition has limitations in the fact that any recognition of this type may be 'superficial' and lacking in adequate follow-up work. But repeatedly local church leaders have reported that it has helped them better to understand their programs and appreciate the potentials of church and community relationships. There have been no 'kick-backs'. For the energies extended (10.7 days of the specialists time) it is a significant extension contribution to 'rural and community life.'"

1956: "Several aspects of this proposition are sociologically significant:

- "1. Recognitions always add to motivations and to understandings.
- "2. Participating churches are helped to study their community relationships and strengthen their programs in ways that meet community needs.
- "3. It is a statewide operation with churches of all major denominations participating.

"4. State church workers are using it as a means of encouraging local church leaders to develop more significant programs.

"5. Reactions in the communities are favorable. As stated by one pastor, 'I feel we got a great deal of good just making it out. Our leaders are now doing more than ever before in the way of program planning. We have some better goals for the year ahead.'"

Seventy-one churches, in 46 counties, representing 11 denominational groups received awards in February 1956 for their 1955 programs.

1957:

Seventy-seven churches, located in 44 counties, and associated with 12 state church organizations approved for certificates by a committee composed of the Rev. Frielie Conaway, director of Rural Work, Presbyterian Synod of Iowa, Mrs. W. H. Yungclas, president, Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, and Dr. Darrell Metcalfe, director of Religious Affairs, Iowa State College.

Further revision of the report form made it into a six-page printed sheet. As stated by Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, ISC leader in sociology, "It makes a somewhat longer form, but does not give more information than is needed for determining the awards of merit with distinction." Church leaders agreed.

Secretarial help was available to compile a card record, one card for each church showing the years for which it had received the recognition certificates. The ICRF report published in the 1956-1957 Iowa Book of Agriculture explained:

"This is not a plan to pick champion churches. Neither does it aim to define church policies or evaluate religious programs. Rather it features church influences in the community and emphasizes the importance of voluntary service in advancing endeavors that contribute to Christian living."

1958:

Two summary reports were published: "Spotlighting Church-Community Relationships" in the January, 1958, Town and Country Church magazine of the National Council of Churches and "Spotlighting Church-Community Programs" in the March, 1958, Iowa Farm Science. Reprints were used with church leaders and extension workers in the state. Inquiries from other states indicated they were of interest in other sections of the country.

For the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship luncheon session where the certificate recognitions were presented by Dr. Marvin Anderson, associate director of the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service, each person present received a mimeographed summary of "Notes Regarding Awards for 1967 Rural Community Service Programs of Churches" (RS278). Members of the ISC Information Service staff prepared news releases which were used in many Iowa papers. Afterwards editors of the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman visited each of the five churches receiving "Awards of Merit with Distinction" and published a series of feature stories in this paper going to about 130,000 Iowa farm family members of their organization.

1959:

With the change in personnel for extension sociology due July 1, the 1959 RSE report (prepared in June and July) presented summary statements regarding this and other aspects of the program which "perhaps...has helped to advance 'rural and community life' aspects of cooperative extension work--which were recognized as basic by the Iowa legislature when it enacted the law now in effect for county (district) extension councils." (Varying with the years, 2 to 5 percent of the extension sociologist's time had been allocated to this church-community relations recognition activity since 1928.) Items noted included:

1. Church leaders "advised that the college contact leaders for this phase of work the ensuing year will be Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, leader for sociology and Maurice Soult, assistant extension director."
2. Suggestion by officers of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship "that there be more division of labor in the presentation operation. Dr. Edwin L. Becker, of the Divinity School, Drake University would doubtless serve as chairman of an awards committee to cooperate with Iowa State College representatives in conducting this feature of the program..."

3. Other states increasingly interested in this type of recognition for local churches. George F. Dow, director, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Maine, March 26, 1959, wrote:

"We have been greatly appreciative of the assistance that you have given us in developing a plan for the recognition of achievements by rural churches in Maine.

"Enclosed is a copy of the plans that we have developed which are being sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches. The first part describes the plan for recognition; the second part presents recommended standards of achievement; the third part includes the report form to be used by the churches that are enrolled..."

4. A mimeographed 5-page statement, "Rural Community Service Programs of Churches" (RS-302) was distributed to those participating in the 1959 Iowa Christian Rural Institute and mailed with a letter of commendation to the churches that were not represented at the meeting when the certificates of merit were presented. This statement noted that each church report presented information about:
(1) identification and size of church, (2) plans for the year, projects undertaken and results achieved, (3) looking ahead, (4) methods in program development, (5) community leadership by church members, (6) special services related to rural and community life, (7) youth programs other than church activities, and (8) religious programs. The 1959 committee of judges (57 churches in 56 counties recognized) included Dr. Edwin P. Becker, director of Town and Country church work, Divinity School, Drake University, Des Moines; Dr. Paul C. Taff, member of the Board of Directors, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Ames, and Mrs. W. H. Drier local church worker, Hubbard, Iowa.

1960: Further clarifying improvements in the "Program Planning Guide and Report Forms" were made by a committee composed of Dr. J. O. Nelson, executive secretary, Iowa Council of Churches, Dr. Edwin Becker, Divinity School, Drake University, the Rev. Charles R. Martin, director, Town and Country Department, Iowa Baptist Convention, and

Dr. Lawrence W. Drabick, ISU extension sociologist. A new supply was printed in July-- CDG-12 Rev.

1961: Twenty-five churches received certificate recognitions which included: 5 Awards of Merit-With Distinction, 9 Awards of Merit-Honorable Mention, 11 Awards of Merit.

Among these churches were: 12 Methodist, 5 Baptist, 2 Evangelical United Brethren, 2 Christian (Disciples) and 1 each of Congregational-Christian, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Church of the Brethren. There were front page news stories about "12 Churches Honored" in the Hawkeye Methodist, March 1, (going to 27,000 Iowa Methodist homes) and the Together, Iowa Area News Edition, April, (going to 45,000 Iowa Methodist homes).

Writing to one of the state church leaders about the Program of Distinction award Dr. L. W. Drabick, extension sociologist, (2/13/61) reported:

"As you might guess, there is a certain amount of duplication in what these churches did as well as between the reports submitted by them and those of churches receiving lesser awards. Additionally, these churches, without exception, submitted programs of comprehensive community service, making it impossible to indicate all which had been done...

"In comparison to the records submitted last year, these are oriented much more toward community service and seem basically to be stronger programs."

1962: Less than two months after the 1961 Iowa Christian Rural Institute the extension sociologist, (Lawrence W. Drabick) contacted "Pastors whose churches have participated in the Community Service Program in the past number of years" (185 in previous 5 years) and each denominational headquarters, restating the aims of this program, inviting them to tell others about it and suggesting they send in for the newly revised entry form. Quoting one paragraph: "The value of community service by churches cannot be overstated. In addition to the direct and observable benefits which accrue to it, there must also be considered the indirect benefits of community pride, cooperative endeavor and continuations of community action growing out of the original work."

With the resignation of Dr. Drabick from the ISU extension staff, his work was taken over in September, 1961, by Extension Rural Sociologist Ronald C. Powers. Shortly thereafter the former extension sociologist (Dr. W. H. Stacy returning from two years work in Korea and now on "reemployed annuity" status for three years before reaching the 70 year full retirement mark in 1964) was invited to again take the lead in extension work with churches.

Twenty-nine churches received certificate awards for "Programs of Rural Community Service" developed in 1961, at the February 2, 1962, Iowa Christian Rural Institute. Five of these received the "Program of Distinction" and 11 the "Honorable Mention" recognitions. 13 others qualified for the Award of Merit certificate. As in preceding years those recognized were publicized in the news. Also, a series of WOI radio matins talks on "Christian Leaders Cooperating for a Better World" included one explaining these recognitions and summarizing the program of the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren.

Evaluations and recommendations were requested from those who registered at the 1962 Iowa Christian Rural Institutes. Thirty-one reports were received and summarized. Twenty-eight answered a question regarding the church recognitions: 25 favoring it as a continuing feature of Institute programs. One was "doubtful" and two indicated "no." Following are representative comments:

"Give it more significance. Make it more difficult to obtain one."

"Rural churches need encouragement. A rural church has heavy responsibilities for its families and its community."

"We at Zion Pershing are very proud of our Award of Merit-Honorable Mention. We felt a challenge in receiving it."

"More people are becoming aware of this program so I feel it should be continued for a few more years."

"I felt a little more could have been made of the same, particularly for a first award. I felt it was a well planned activity, and our Star church appreciated the recognition. It really makes a church get down and dig to merit it. I didn't realize that so much work was involved, but that is what makes it worthwhile."

"I believe standards should be higher for certificates of award..."

"Would not continue unless something more can be done to encourage more churches to participate."

1963: Twenty-four churches recognized: 2 "Awards of Merit-with Distinction", 12 "Awards of Merit-Honorable Mention", 10 "Awards of Merit." Twenty-one of the 24 had been recognized in previous years--receiving a total of 115 certificates since this program was inaugurated in 1929. They had a total of approximately 4,800 members: largest 531, smallest 51, 4 in the 301-500 bracket, 4 in the 200-300 bracket, 13 in the 100-200 bracket, and 2 under 100. Nearly all were in areas of declining population. All but two reported taking in new members during the year--a net total gain of 37.

A WOI radio talk, November 15, 1963, on "Looking Ahead in Church and Community Work" had 6 paragraphs on Community Service Programs of Churches, Supplementing what has been documented above were the following statements.

"What we cherish with regard to freedoms and respect for the worth of human personalities has its footings, historically in religious doctrines.

"To a large extent, church relationships with public affairs are indirect: encouraging church members to carry responsibilities in progressive activities. But specific activities of a secular nature often are sponsored, as with youth activities and in the field of social welfare. Moreover, church facilities often are used by non-church groups: for example, in Ames they provide meeting places for the Golden Age Club, a senior citizens group. This type of service is more general in smaller communities where facilities for meetings are limited."

"It is logical for us to consider this proposition of recognizing 'community service programs of churches' during the Thanksgiving season. The plan was conceived as a means of saying 'Thank You' for contributions that mean so much to our communities, where all that we seek in the way of better living depends so much on spiritual motivations, leadership service and cooperative endeavors."

1964: Promotional work was developed much the same as in former years. Twenty-two churches were approved by the appraisal committee of Dr. Raymond A. Spoerri, Associate General Secretary, Iowa Council of Churches and E. F. Graff of the Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa

State University. (Three other reports were not complete, and another was received too late.)

Again the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren (R 1 Waterloo, Orange Township, Black Hawk County)--one of the truly great churches in rural America--qualified for the "Award of Merit--with Distinction" among churches with more than 500 members. This was the second church to receive a "Class A Rural Program" certificate in 1929. Records on file show that it received 33 annual certificates. And repeatedly its leaders said the awards challenged them to renewed and greater endeavors.

At the end of 1964 it had a membership of 518, with an enrollment of 365 and an average weekly attendance in its Sunday Church School (in November) of 315. Of its \$42,750.50 budget in 1964, \$16,345 was for missions and benevolence. Fifteen objectives were planned for the year. Many of its members were leaders in community, county and state affairs. Projects of the year included:

1. International Youth Exchange from Iceland, "a blessing to church, school, and community."
2. Christian Rural Overseas Program. "All organization meetings of the county were held in our church. Our men did the township drive."
3. Cooperation with the local community council.
4. Hosting the State Denominational Youth Conference.
5. Supporting missionaries overseas and aiding students in college and seminary.

Decisions were made during 1964 to discontinue, at least for the present, this aspect of adult education work with church-community programs in Iowa. Such action was favored by (1) the university extension sociologists, (2) the ICRF members in their annual meeting February 3 at the Iowa Christian Rural Institute, and the ICRF board of directors meeting in Des Moines April 15. It reflected several factors such as:

1. Urbanization trends and other aspects of social and economic change in the state.
2. Lessening interest as evidenced by the number of churches reporting.
3. Growing demands for work by rural sociologists on area planning and other programs.
4. Changes in personnel.

Pastors Associate Memberships in Farm Bureaus

During the first 5 or 6 years of this Church-Community Relationships program there was a specification in the report form that "the pastor shall be a member of a farm organization and receiving the information received by members as to the purpose and work of the organization." On August 8, 1929, Assistant Extension Director M. McDonald wrote Charles E. Hearst, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, saying:

"It has been suggested on several occasions that some form of membership be offered to rural pastors by the county farm bureau. Affiliate memberships, I believe, are suggested.

"Rural pastors generally take considerable interest in the county Farm Bureaus. Quite a number of them are active leaders of 4-H clubs. It has been suggested that a courtesy such as extended to them would develop more interest and establish a relationship of mutual benefit...What do you think of it?"

The 1929 RSE annual report documents a follow-up on this suggestion:

"At the meeting of the Farm Bureau Federation executive committee just following the State Fair, provision was made for affiliate or associate membership to be given by the county and state farm bureaus. This action was given very extensive publicity in the Des Moines papers September 18 and September 19. (...in January, 1930,...associate memberships had been extended to a total of 208 pastors...in 35 counties. Each pastor to whom the membership has been offered has been sent information from the Extension Service relative to the Class A rural program of churches.)"

(Note: The close working relationships in Iowa counties of cooperative extension work and indigenous county farm bureau organizations during the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's have been documented in another monograph, Benchmarks in Extension Work with Local Rural Adult Groups in Iowa-RLG 11, 1955.)

IX. SURVEYS AND ANALYSES

Knowledge gathering and interpretation is essential for knowledge dissemination. Knowledge used in adult education work with churches, bearing upon community relationships, has included: (1) findings of scientific research (population data, social processes, community analyses, etc.), (2) problem-focused surveys (several are reported below), (3) workshops and self-discovery studies by participants in planning endeavors (always strategic in decision making related to personal and group affairs). Following are notes regarding activities of this nature (several of which are interrelated with programs noted in other sections of this historical résumé). The principal sources from which this information is taken are the RSE annual reports and records of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.

A. Identifying Churches and Church Trends

- 1925: Noted on page 29 above was the identification by the county agent in Mills county of "41 churches or church buildings in the county. Of these 20 were served by resident pastors, 6 served by non-resident pastors while 11 were classified as inactive and 4 as dead."
- 1926: District extension agents in their spring survey obtained from county agents the names of pastors who were particularly interested in rural community work. (This list was circularized with an announcement of the state Rural Pastors Conference in Ames.)
- 1929: The 1926 U.S. Religious Census had reported 5,147 churches in Iowa, with 73 percent of these in rural areas (open-country and towns and villages of less than 2,500 population). W. Norris Wentworth reported at the 1929 American Country Life Conference in Ames supplementary information. He charted the location of open-country churches, using the latest county maps available in the state library. By checking with secretaries of county councils of religious education he found the map identification to be about 87 percent accurate.

He reported:

"We have about 1,100 open country churches in Iowa. They are more numerous in the older sections--or eastern half--than in the newer part in the west. As to the conditions of churches, reports have come in from some 30 of these county secretaries which hear out the popular ideas. Nineteen made comments on the status of the open country church, 8 stating it was on the decline, 6 said there was no noticeable change, and 5 rather grudgingly admitted that conditions may not be really bad."

1935: Mr. Winterstein in work of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council (Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship) assembled (a) 12 complete county lists of ministers (used in promoting district rural life conferences), (b) names of officers in state church organizations, (c) complete roll of churches in 10 denominations, and (d) lists of established county ministerial associations and also correspondents in each county without an association.

1936: In the first annual meeting of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council, February 3, 1936, nineteen participants were asked to state on cards "The Most Important Iowa Rural Church Problem." Twenty problems were identified.

Mr. Winterstein made a survey in one township in Franklin county with which he had been familiar 20 years earlier. As reported in the Des Moines Sunday Register, October 18, 1936, he found that "only 25.4 percent of the population was composed of church-goers...and not necessarily regular church-goers." He estimated that 20 years earlier "more than 60 percent did attend church."

During 1936 Mr. Winterstein assisted in religious census, membership and financial campaigns in Warren, Hardin and Lyon counties--45 communities in all.

1937: The most systematic and complete analysis of this period was developed with the people in Warren county. Its significance was reported to the IRRWC directors, September 3, in terms of:

- (a) change in leadership in the ministerial association;
- (b) Methodist district superintendent stating interest in developing a major church reorganization project (with Simpson College at Indianola and its chapels or churches in practically every village and town center, Warren is probably the most Methodist county in the state);
- (c) report of the Indianola church pastor that one-half of the new members, at Easter, were of families reported to him in the survey and one of the younger ministers said his church contacts had been increased 50 percent;
- (d) statement by the Indianola survey committee chairman about increased interest in his church program;
- (e) county agent's report that lay community leaders were discussing results of the survey in different sections of the county; and
- (f) Indianola editor's use of the survey to stir up more concern regarding church leadership and church work.

The ISC Extension Service, with the help of SRE and WPA workers, developed a card file mailing list which included names of at least three-fourths of the ministers in the state. These were used in developing district and county country life conferences. A letter was sent to these ministers with suggestions for Harvest Home Sunday programs.

(Note: this card file was kept fairly up-to-date for several years, using pastoral assignments published in the papers, or information obtained from other sources. Later it was discarded as more useful lists became more readily available.)

1945: Through correspondence and by setting up a meeting in Des Moines, in September, considerable help was given in launching a study of rural churches and rural communities under the leadership of Dr. H. Paul Douglass. A follow-up note in the 1946 RSE annual report stated:

"This study was first suggested by the Committee for Cooperative Research of the Home Missions Council and the Federal Council of Churches. Plans were worked out during the latter part of 1945. Studies were carried on by a corps of workers in the early spring of 1946, final arrangements being made March 25 in a joint session of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship directors and members of the Rural Department of the Iowa Inter-church Council.

Findings were written into a report by Dr. Douglass which was edited in September. The report will be out in November, 1946, for the National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country." (Arrangements for printing were made with the Printing Service of ISC. It carried the title "Some Iowa Rural Churches.")

A related rural religious census was conducted shortly after World War II by the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship. The RSE annual report explained it was connected with a two-day invitational seminar for selected rural church leaders on "What Are the Basic Facts in Rural Church Work?"--Dr. W. F. Kumlien of South Dakota State College assisting (Institute sponsored by the Pioneer Hybrid Company). A state religious census committee was established with the Reverend Calvin Schnucker as chairman and census director. The extension sociologist served as committee secretary and other ISC sociologists helped as consultants. Considerable effort was devoted to "(1) outlining plans, (2) lining up a "pilot" county, (3) supplying Extension aids, and (4) contacting county and state workers at every opportunity."

1946: In 1946 it was noted that Audubon county served as the "pilot" county. Census schedules were printed at Dubuque, which were used along with mimeographed "County Plan for Religious Census" and "Directions for Religious Census Workers."

The Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship 1946 annual report (see part V above) stated:

"By November 1946, it had been developed in sixty counties. At least half of these have completed county-wide programs. In other counties areas have been covered--nearly always with a set-up in which all churches of the community participated.

"The possibilities of cooperation in religious work was demonstrated to a remarkable extent in this undertaking. Representatives of 19 denominations and faith groups have participated. It is estimated that 20,000 different individuals worked on assignments in their neighborhoods. Methodists, Lutherans, Congregational Christians, Baptists, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterians and Episcopalians supplied financial aid or staff help on the state level. Substantial financial contributions were received from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Pioneer Hybrid Seed Company. The rural Church Department, Presbyterian Seminary, University of Dubuque and the Economics and Sociology Section of Iowa State College provided staff leadership and mimeographed aids."

1963: Excerpts from radio talk "Looking Ahead in Church and Community Work," by W. H. Stacy on WOI, November 15, 1963.

"Recent surveys show that most underchurched parts of the state are where there are many old church units, so small they merely represent remnants of what was once vital and significant. Last June, the Department of Economics and Sociology of Iowa State University published findings of a study made in cooperation with the North Central Region Sub-committee on Population, showing effects on churches of population changes in Greene County, Iowa, during the decade of the 1950's. This county is located in central Iowa and is more resourceful than many. But the data showed such facts as these:

1. With one church for about every 100 families, Greene County has two or three times as many churches as suggested standards would indicate.
2. Churches in areas of population loss were more or less passively accepting declining memberships, lower budgets and effects of out-migration."

B. Studies Conducted Locally

1933: As a method of developing better understanding with church leaders and obtaining new facts regarding church situations, a survey plan was outlined and a questionnaire prepared under the heading "New Frontiers in Community Development." State leaders in 5 or 6 church groups were contacted. The plan was sent to all pastors of Congregational-Christian churches and Churches of the Brethren. Summaries of the information received were returned to the groups using the plan. The following questions show the type of information sought:

1. Are groups of out-of-school young people active in the church program?
2. What course of study are they following?
3. Are they interested in a plan such as suggested in the attached statement "Young Citizens Forum"?
4. Are the relationships between churches and rural organizations becoming more vital...?
5. Would you be interested in a county conference of ministers...?

6. Are you receiving the monthly leaflet, Economic Facts...?
7. Is the Depression affecting church attendance?
8. In the development of emergency relief. What are some of the special services that are being rendered by your church?

C. Dr. Hargreaves' Marshall County Study

1931: As noted above (VII, pages 51-52), a study directed by Dr. J. R. Hargreaves, field secretary, Home Missions Council of churches in Marshall county, Iowa, helped establish footings for developing an Iowa Inter-Church Council. The survey was initiated in 1929. It was conducted for the specific purpose of obtaining facts to be brought to the attention of church executives. Iowa State College and state church leaders cooperated in the operation. Following is a summary of findings, as recorded in the 1931 RSE annual report:

All of the rural churches or village churches in Marshall county were visited. In most cases, it was possible to talk with several leaders connected with the church in order to secure different reactions relative to the religious life in the community. A large map of the county was prepared showing the location of each church outside of the city of Marshalltown-- a total of 41 churches. Of this number, 22 were served by part-time pastors or were using Home Missions funds.

For each of 15 church organizations there were comments:

- (a) Catholic - 4 churches, each with a part-time pastor. "No comments...regarding the Catholic setup; from the organization standpoint they were arranged to provide services in larger units of constituency than the average of the rural churches."
- (b) Lutheran - 3 churches, 2 of which were in the open country. "The three Lutheran churches all seemed to have large, strong congregations. Being of different Lutheran Synods, no special consideration was given to further unity."
- (c) Methodist Episcopal - 5 churches, 2 of which were with part-time pastors. "All of the Methodist Episcopal churches were being served by part-time pastors or were located in small rural communities in which there were other Protestant churches of similar type...suggested that further attention be given to federation; at Rhodes, Methodist Episcopal with Methodist Protestant; at Albion M.E. with the Presbyterian; at Melbourne M.E. with the Christian or Disciples of Christ."

- (d) Federated - In two communities; State Center in which the Methodist had federated with the Presbyterian and Gilman with its Congregational Community church "appeared to be improved church situations. It was apparent, however, that some problems of church administration and consolidation were not completely solved."
- (e) Methodist Protestant - One church at Rhodes "was receiving some Home Mission funds, although it had a full-time pastor, people in the community were giving consideration to plans for a consolidation with the Methodist Episcopal Church."
- (f) Latter Day Saints - Rhodes. "The one Latter Day Saints Church in the rural part of the county was being maintained at Rhodes with small overhead."
- (g) Presbyterian - Albion. "The one Presbyterian Church outside of Marshalltown and, in addition to the Federated Church at State Center with its Presbyterian constituency, was using Home Missions funds in order to maintain separate services with a resident pastor. Plans for a federation with the Methodist Church (located just across the street) were being held up largely because of factions within the community which apparently were uncompromising."
- (h) Christian (Disciples) - 4 churches. "The churches at Liscomb and in the open country appear to be thriving. Each had full-time resident leadership. The churches at Melbourne and St. Anthony were served by students coming out from Drake University and others." Dr. Hargreaves suggested "federation with the Methodist Church in Melbourne and the Congregational Christian church at Clemons for the St. Anthony group."
- (i) St. Johns German Reformed - Melbourne. "This church with average membership appeared to be in fair condition. Some joint activities arranged with the Methodist and Christian churches in the Melbourne community indicated possibilities of a great community church at some future date."
- (j) Friends Churches - 8 churches. "Strong church programs appeared to be developing at LeGrand and Bangor." Dr. Hargreaves suggested "the possibility of a combination of some of the other Friends Church groups."
- (k) Congregational-Christian - 6 churches. "the churches at LeGrand, Ferguson and VanCleave were being served by part-time leaders or receiving Home Mission funds. The church at LaMoille appeared to be weakening due perhaps to proximity to Marshalltown." Dr. Hargreaves suggested: "(1) Strengthening Clemons church with the Church of Christ group at St. Anthony, (2) Strengthening Green Mountain church with cooperative activities with an open country Evangelical Chapel and a Church of the Brethren, (3) Possible combination of work at LaMoille and VanCleave, (4) further amalgamation of the

Friends and Christian Congregational church programs at LeGrand."

- (l) Evangelical Church - Laurel and Vienna Township, open country Evangelical Chapel. "Combined young folks' program at Laurel indicated the problems and also some possibilities of a federation of Methodist Episcopal and Evangelical at that point."
- (m) St. Johns Evangelical - Jefferson Township, open country. "A large relatively new church building prevents this group from amalgamation with Congregational Church at VanCleave. They are engaging a pastor in cooperation with church of similar denomination in adjoining county."
- (n) Ferguson Pentacostal Mission. "A small group is conducting services of this type."
- (o) Church of the Brethren - Marion Township, open country. "This group has possibilities of developing further relationships with a similar group in Tama county and the Congregational Church group at Green Mountain."

1932: "On June 15, Dr. Hargreaves spent another day in Ames during which time it was possible to arrange conferences with Mr. Murl McDonald, county agent leader; Zellar Mills, county agent in Tama county; and Dr. Von Tungeln, head of Rural Sociology. Further plans were considered including (a) the mimeographing of reference material for ministers who participate in 4-H and township farm bureau meetings, (b) follow-up meetings with Tama and Marshall county groups, (c) greater community relationships between churches, schools and other community institutions,"

D. Sociological and Economic Facts Affecting
Church Adjustment in Iowa

1931: At the meeting of 39 church leaders, April 28, called by President R. M. Hughes of Iowa State College and Dr. L. Myron Boozer, chairman of a church executives group (see page 51 above and the statement which follows reporting Dr. Hargreaves work), the extension rural sociologist presented a statement on "Sociological and Economic Facts Affecting Church Adjustment in Iowa." The outline for this was:

(A) CONSTITUENCY - (1) Population trends, (2) community trends, (3) trends relative to interest of constituency in religious programs (several studies cited). (B) ECONOMIC RESOURCES - (1) the agricultural crises, (2) rural giving. (C) SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY - (1) the cooperative movement, (2) junior organizations, (3) health programs, (4) library service, (5) home talent development. (D) CONCLUSION.

As requested by leaders in the conference, the material presented was mimeographed as a 16-page statement (CD-6) for follow-up use. The Cedar Rapids Gazette published a summary, April 30, and the Ames Tribune a similar article, April 29. Some of the facts were in a news release, in Better Iowa, to weekly papers.

Commendation letters were received:

Dr. Roy B. Guild, associate general secretary, Home Missions Council, New York, said, "This is very valuable information. I can use it not only in connection with Iowa but in general discussion of the problems with which we are dealing in State Councils of Churches."

President R. M. Hughes of Iowa State College wrote, "I was very much impressed and very favorably impressed with the report you made at the meeting a few days ago. It certainly involved a lot of work and I appreciate it. I do hope that some little progress can be made in the direction in which this meeting was aimed."

In the 1931 RSE annual report it is recorded:

"The two-weeks time spent on this activity was perhaps more far reaching in its effect and influence than any other similar period of endeavor on the part of the extension rural sociologist. Part of the reason for this is in the fact that Dr. J. R. Hargreaves of the Home Missions Council gave fine, unselfish cooperation and himself was responsible for the initiative effort. Mention should also be made of the study of farm population conducted by Harter and Stewart. Facts taken from the unpublished reports of their study were effectively used in discussing population trends."

1933:

A group of 30 slides and notes were prepared for church people to use in discussions of the new changes in the agricultural situation, with emphasis on social planning aspects of Agricultural Adjustment.

This carried the title, "Church Leadership in Country Life." Information about this aid was sent during November to 2,500 clergymen in the state, with an enclosed card which could be used in requesting it. (Slides to be obtained through the ISC Visual Instruction Service, express collect.) Thirty ministers promptly requested sets. Two of the first to use them reported:

"This lecture was shown to our newly organized mens club. Would like to show it again to a larger audience. It is a splendid lecture."

"Very satisfactory and much appreciated."

1934: "Church Leadership in Country Life" slide lecture reported used by 21 ministers in 23 meetings, in 19 counties. Total attendance at these meetings--1,451.

This year's annual report also noted that "with the agricultural adjustment programs the extension sociologist has tried to render a distinctive type of service in helping to interpret the meaning of the program to agencies other than farm groups. A publicity article regarding the significance of soil conservation and long-time agricultural planning was sent out in connection with a talk given in Cass county.

One of the extension editors reported:

"The Bible (quotation) story was sent to about 500 Iowa weeklies through Better Iowa...and special stories were sent to and used by the Des Moines Register and the Cedar Rapids Gazette...On the corn-hog opinion story, I think practically every daily and a great number of weeklies...used this story."

1939: In a layman's talk given in Harvest Home Sunday programs at Estherville (November 12) Nevada (November 19) and Oskaloosa (November 26) also other churches in 1940--on "The Church in Tomorrows Community," the extension sociologist reported:

"According to national surveys there were 3.3 churches per 1,000 population in 140 agricultural communities in 1924. In 1930 there were 2.8 and in 1936 only 2.4. We may agree that 2.4 churches per 1,000 population are enough. But the proportion of the community who are church members is declining. In the middle-western communities studied, 36.5 percent were members in 1924, 35.8 percent in 1930, and 32.1 percent in 1936. In church attendance the drop is even more distinct. The average resident church member attended 5.4 religious services a month

in 1924, 4.0 a month in 1930 and 3.0 a month in 1936. On the basis of the church membership-community population ratio, this means a membership decline of 12 percent and a further decline of 44 percent in the number of services attended by those who were members. This is the change that took place between 1924 and 1936. Nine of these mid-western communities were in Iowa and we know they were better than average samples....

"Still, in the main, we are doing nothing about it. Churches have made little change in their plans of action. Leaders are not tackling the problem cooperatively. Rural folks themselves are taking it as a matter of course."

E. Explorations Bearing on Communitywide Cooperation

A few representative explorations of this kind are documented in RSE annual reports as follows.

- 1928: Some work done with church leaders in the state to study possibilities in developing rural community scorecard plans of analyzing community needs.
- 1933: Dr. J. R. Hargreaves...in a luncheon session with Director Bliss (Extension Service), Mr. Harter (rural sociology) and Professor Barton Morgan (education) and the extension rural sociologist on July 17 suggested the idea of a fall meeting bringing together representatives of agencies developing character building. The following day the plan was presented to leaders in Des Moines, all of whom were favorable to the idea. (Miss Samuelson, state superintendent of public instruction; Mr. Herbrecht, Council of Christian Education; Mr. Hearst, president, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; K. Fox, editor Successful Farming; and F. E. Moore, State Department of Public Instruction). Such a meeting was held in the Memorial Union at Ames September 5. Those who attended included Dr. Hargreaves, Mr. Hutton, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Quist, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Reed, and Miss Forbes (last 4 were state 4-H club leaders). "The main result was undoubtedly a better understanding on the part of each leader of the objectives in the other young peoples' programs."
- 1935: The Iowa Rural Religious Work Council "Progress Report for 1935" stated:

"Community self surveys have been promoted and a county-wife program initiated in one county. Council representatives have conferred with members of state departments in perfecting a Community Life Check Sheet. Religious studies are also planned. A council committee has recommended specific proposals for a research program."

1936: A "Character Education" program was developed by the Rev. Mr. Winterstein of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship and the state superintendent of public instruction which was promoted in 1936 and succeeding years. An Estherville newspaper article, July 22, 1937, reported that an Emmet county leaders meeting conducted by Mr. Winterstein and the extension sociologist "centered around character education and the need for cooperation between the three fundamental agencies of child developmental agencies--the home, the church, and the school...A committee of five members was chosen to create greater interest in a character education program and to act as a promoting agency to formulate practical plans by which character building may be furthered among Emmet county school children." (Similar meetings were held in other counties.)

1938: At the 1938 annual meeting of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship a committee was set up with the extension sociologist as chairman to outline a plan which churches could use in making a study of community situations affecting church life. Other members of the committee included Father L. G. Ligutti, Granger, Iowa, president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Dr. N. Astrup Larson, Ames, Iowa, president of the Norwegian Lutheran Conference of Iowa, Dr. J. Bicket, Newton, Iowa, superintendent of United Presbyterian Churches, and Dr. W. O. Harless, Ames, Iowa, state superintendent of Presbyterian churches.

"A series of attempts were made to work out a schedule which would be used by local churches. Leaders in the Extension Service even gave consideration in the matter of printing the forms that would be needed. However, as the matter proceeded the differences in the programs and interests of the various church executives became more distinct. At the same time, plans for putting out a community scorecard (Tomorrow's Community check sheets) were carried through and these covered the points expressed by a number of the leaders in the February meeting.

However, specific help was given to the Dallas County Christian Rural Fellowship in shaping up a survey of families in Dallas county, and arrangements were made with Rev. C. N. Thiele of Maxwell to carry forward a survey in individual communities. (This study was completed as part of a program in rural sociology at Iowa State College.)"

The 1938 Iowa Country Life Institute dealt with the theme of "Town and Country Relations". One of the main phases was a discussion group, which in a series of meetings considered Town and Country relations in church work. This was led by Mr. George Godfrey, director of Agricultural Relations, Iowa State College, as chairman and Dr. Mark Dawber as vice-chairman. The extension sociologist served as secretary and afterwards prepared a summary of the discussion which was published as a (5-page) mimeographed circular, "The Church in Tomorrow's Community" (CD-7).

Another item in the 1938 RSE annual report stated:

"Dr. Martin Schroeder of Lincoln, Nebraska, who has been assigned to rural work in mid-western states by the United Lutheran Church...was obtained as speaker for the first day's program of Iowa Farm and Home Week and on several occasions during the year plans were discussed with him for studying the church situation in rural communities."

1944: Prepared plans for church action which received favorable attention by church leaders. These included:

- (a) "The Christian Rural Family"
- (b) "Crusading for Soil"
- (c) "The Agricultural Ladder"
- (d) "Planning the V-E Day Celebration"
- (e) "At the Heart of Rural Life"
- (f) "Our Christian Responsibilities for International Relations in the Postwar World"

1950: One of the best hopes for maintaining effective church work in small communities comes from the experiences of cooperative parishes, several churches operating together under the leadership of an outstanding pastor. Consultant and exploratory relationships have been developed with several of these programs, including:

- (1) Congregational-Christian, Rev. Verne Willey, Truno.
- (2) Methodist Warren County Parish, Rev. Gene Carter, Simpson College.
- (3) Church of Christ at Bloomfield, Rev. Fred Sawyer and Rev. Frank Reeder (Suspended, due in part to a Fundamentalist faction).
- (4) Presbyterian, Lee County Parish, Rev. E. D. Byrd, Westpoint. (Associated with the Theological Seminary at the University of Dubuque.)

F. What's Right with Churches?

Churches function as community institutions. Related to other community institutions and organizations, what are their distinctive characteristics and assets? This is a sociological question. Surveys and analyses by the ISC extension sociologist have identified six "Things that are Right." As a general rule, granting all that may be stated by way of imperfections, the church:

- (1) Presents a spiritual dynamic for right living.
- (2) Provides a comforting faith.
- (3) Supports education.
- (4) Helps persons enjoy beauty.
- (5) Promotes sociability.
- (6) Helps persons to participate in world-wide affairs.

Explorations of this nature began while in New York City, studying for a Ph.D. in adult education. The categories were identified when summarizing, for a radio talk, answers to the question, "Why do we want churches in our community?" Which were given by church laymen and ministers who participated in a district country life conference at Red Oak, Iowa, May 27, 1935. Further explorations have been made, over the years, in scores of situations to check the validity of the categories. With adaptations and refinement, this analysis focusing on positive aspects of the church as a community institution has been used in at least 100 talks. It has appeared in state and national publications. The categories have met with approval by many church leaders, Catholics and Protestants.

G. Rural Cultural Arts

After the 1930 National Country Life Conference, the ISU extension sociologist served as secretary and reporter for a committee of the American Country Life Association making a survey of the cultural arts in rural America. Co-workers on the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service staff have provided leadership for many programs in this field. (Another related story which is not covered in this Historical Re'sume'...)

Dealing here with surveys and analyses bearing on church affairs, mention should be made of at least three contributions.

(1) 1936: An inquiry to Iowa clergymen in January asked "Is interest increasing or decreasing in your community in the following? (Figures in parentheses indicate the net differences of those reporting "yes" over the numbers reporting "no".)

1. Music	130
2. Drama	87
3. Folklore	3
4. Sports and folk games	95
5. Literary pursuits	48
6. Home and countryside beautification	104
7. Photography	1
8. Handicraft	57
9. Painting, sculpture and allied arts	7
10. Exhibits	72
11. Conservation of records and treasures	47
12. Art in work	24

Of the 200 replies received, 55 percent were from rural villages under 1,000, 17 percent from villages of 1,000 to 2,500 population, 12 percent from towns of 2,500 to 5,000, and 16 percent from cities over 5,000. Many reported "no change." Growth of interest was most apparent in music and least in evidence with photography. A summary of the findings was mimeographed in a 4-page statement for general distribution.

(2) At the 1936 National Conference on the Country Church, held in Ames, November 23-25, five types of rural art were exhibited: Landscaping, Music, Drama, Home Art, and Church Architecture.

(3) In 1942, the ISC extension sociologist, responding to a request from national church leaders who were developing a proposed Protestant Rural Life Manual, prepared a statement on "Art and Rural Culture."

H. Church-Farmer Hearings

1932: Joined in with the plans of Dr. Arthur E. Holt of the Chicago Theological Seminary and Dr. Barclay and Dr. Kirkpatrick of the Methodist Education Board to conduct (a) series of hearings in representative communities with the purpose of obtaining from farmers an impression of views regarding the church situation. The extension sociologist attended two of the hearings. "An Address to the American Clergy" statement was formulated. The Extension Service made this available (mimeographed) to ministers and Farm Bureau leaders throughout the state. There were new items about it in the Bureau Farmer and the daily press. It was published nationally in Information Service of the Federal Council of churches, in Rural America of American Country Life Association, and by other agencies including the Federal Reserve Board. The RSE annual report stated: "It contributed to a better understanding of the farm situation by urban people. It is being followed up by a study booklet to be put out under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Board of Education."

During the time Dr. Holt and his co-workers were in Iowa, arrangements were made for them to meet with the college committees considering "Objectives for Agriculture."

I. Church and Land Tenure

1940: The Iowa extension rural sociologist was a member of a seminar group which, under the joint auspices of the Town and Country Committee of the Home Missions Council and the Cornbelt Land Tenure Committee of the Farm Foundation, spent three days in Chicago considering the problem, "How can a church help to stabilize a community by creating a more permanent tenure?" Preparing for it, he wrote to a number of Iowa leaders asking:

- "(1) What are the aspects of tenure in which the church should be working?
- "(2) By what methods can church leaders contribute to developing a more permanent tenure?"

Rev. Calvin Schnucker, the new Program Director for the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, in his own parish (Ramsey Reformed Church, Titonka, Kossuth county) had been developing an outstanding program of improving the community life through creating a more permanent tenure. Steps were taken to see that he received an invitation to participate in this seminar.

A summary report of this meeting was published (mimeographed) by the Farm Foundation. Later (November 1, 1941) a digest was printed in the Information Service leaflets of the Federal Council of Churches. There was follow-up in programs of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.

J. Basic Elements in Rural Life

1939: At the request of President Friley, the extension sociologist in cooperation with Mr. P. C. Taff, assistant extension director and Dr. Ray E. Wakeley, chairman of rural sociology work, prepared a statement regarding "Basic Assets in Rural Life." This was afterwards condensed in the form of an outline to use in a set of community organization reference charts, which served as aids in leader training meetings. Why Conserve Rural Life? It is distinctive in:

1. Maintaining stable family life.
2. Providing ownership experiences.
3. Supplying creative work.
4. Stressing primary relationships.
5. Promoting a growth point of view.
6. Cooperating with the Creator.
7. Emphasizing freedom with responsibility.

K. Understanding Bases of World Peace

1942: During World War II church leaders and other forward-looking citizens promoted studies of the essentials of enduring peace. The ISC extension sociologist assisted with the following adult education fact-seeking, endeavors:

- (1) Interpreting "A Message from the National Study Conference on Churches and a Just and Durable Peace." (John Foster Dallas, chairman, and Dr. B. S. Abernathy, secretary of the National Commission, to Study Bases of a Just and Durable Peace.) Discussion outlines were prepared for adult forums, mimeographed in a 14-page aid, RS-24, "Church Leaders Plan for a New World Order." It offered procedural guides for considering: (1) Guiding Christian Principles, (2) Responsibility of the Church, (3) Social Bases, (4) Economic Bases, (5) Political Bases, and (6) Steps Toward Action. An encouraging appraisal came in a letter, dated June 12, from Dr. B. S. Abernathy, saying:

"I have read carefully the various documents you sent, and have been impressed with their fine quality and with the variety of approach--as you are making to this study, I have not seen anything done by any individual that compares with it. I was especially delighted with the mimeographed discussion outlines. Your list of topics for the expression of individual opinion seems to me the kind of thing that is most needed at this time. I should very much like to have a goodly supply of these discussion outlines on hand to send out to groups that want to know what to do. Could I get, say, fifty copies from you or would you give me permission to have the pages mimeographed here?"

- (2) Preparing and presenting, over WOI radio, six Matins talks on "Sowing Seeds for a New World." These were mimeographed (RS-29) and distributed as aids for developing Rural Life Sunday programs in May.
- (3) Presenting four 15-minute programs over WOI, sponsored by the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship on "Looking Toward a Post-War World." These were dialogues conducted by the extension sociologist with other members of the ISC faculty: Dr. George H. VonTungetin (sociologist) on "The Religious Approach to a Post-War World," Dr. J. Edwin Losey (sociologist) on "Social Objectives in a Post-War World," Dr. Edward D. Allen (economics department) on "Economic Justice in a Post-War World," and Dr. John A. Vieg (history and government) on "Political Stability in a Post-War World."

L. National Study Conference on the Church
and Economic Life

1950:

"The Responsibility of Citizens in an Interdependent World" was the theme of the second National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life, sponsored by the National Council of Churches at Detroit, Michigan, February 16-19, 1950. More than 400 delegates from 22 denominational groups and 10 affiliated state councils participated. They came from 29 states and included resource persons, laymen, ministers, and church executives. The extension sociologist was invited to participate as a representative of the National Council of Congregational Christian Churches. Few experiences have been more educational, inspirational and challenging. It was a well organized work conference, highly motivated to make Christian ethics more significant and effective in economic, social and political life. There were opportunities for all members to contribute and each received helpful counsel from the others.

Follow-up work included:

- (1) Preparing and presenting a series of six WOI matins talks interpreting the conference in terms of (a) A Christian approach to economic problems, (b) Different Viewpoints--One Objective, (c) The Christian Position and a Call to Action, (d) Christian social controls, and (f) Christian Guides for You and Me.
- (2) Supplying a brief digest for Congregational Iowa.
- (3) Presenting contributions to meetings of the Ames Inter-Church Council and Congregational-Christian church groups in Iowa.

M. National Conference on Church and Agricultural Policy

1951:

The Department of Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches invited the extension sociologist, with 60 other leaders, to participate in a three-day work conference at Haverford College, Philadelphia, to develop a "Christian Inquiry" dealing with:

- (a) Agriculture's share of the national income.
- (b) Low income and low production families in agriculture.
- (c) Land reform: production and income effects.
- (d) International aspects of agricultural income policy.

An interpretation of this conference was presented to the WOI radio listening audience in a series of matins talks, September 10-15. Later fifty copies of the printed conference report, purchased by the ISC Cooperative Extension Service, were placed in the hands of agricultural editors, officers of farmers organizations, agricultural economists, and leaders of extension programs in the state.

N. Christian Ethics in Economic Life

1951: Beginning in 1947, the Federal Council of Churches (reorganized in 1950 as the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.) through its Department of the Church and Economic Life, launched a three-year study (financed by the Rockefeller Foundation) of "Christian Ethics in Economic Life." Scholars in various fields--economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, the law--were enlisted to work with theologians, moral philosophers and ministers. Dr. Elizabeth E. Hoyt, ISC professor of consumption economics, served as leader for the study of "American Income and Its Use." Professor R. E. LeMoine, director of religious life at ISC was one of her collaborators. (Another of the six major analyses was directed by Professor Kenneth Boulding of the University of Michigan, formerly on the economics staff of ISC. Professor Howard R. Bowen, now president, University of Iowa, authored a third major report.)

What was developed as a fifth major study, on "Attitudes and Opinions of People in the American Economy" enlisted the cooperation of the Iowa Inter-Church Council. The ISC extension sociologist worked on its committee to develop local discussion groups, serving as leader for a group meeting in Des Moines of state workers which started holding meetings in October, 1950. Eight questions in the realm of Christian ethics in modern life were explored. (Dr. Paul A. Sharp, then on the ISU Department of History and Government, now president of Drake University, was one of the participants.)

O. Seven Great Arts

We live as "whole persons" in the "whole society." What individuals do that yield personal satisfactions which are in harmony with the well-being of others is basic to human and social progress. When a person develops knowledge and skills to function effectively in this manner he becomes an artist in contributing to meaningful social living. Adult educators face no greater challenge than that of helping learners to advance in this way. What are the essentials?

Since serving as program committee secretary for the 1930 National Country Life Conference, at the University of Wisconsin, on "Rural Standards of Living," the ISC extension sociologist has been exploring this challenge and relating his findings to educational endeavors. On-going surveys and analyses have led to the statement (explained in a recently prepared 450-page typed manuscript) of "Seven Great Arts":

1. Seeking and using truth.
2. Producing efficiently.
3. Consuming judiciously.
4. Using time wisely.
5. Creating and enjoying beauty.
6. Developing teamwork.
7. Building philosophies of life.

In large measure, this is a religious proposition. The Church related adult education endeavors where it has been used have included:

1. Discussion in an adult Sunday School class in 1931, where the pattern of thought began to take form.
2. Exposition in a series of WOI matins talks.
3. Paper presented at the 1963 Iowa Pastors Social Science Institute, on "Meaningful Social Living."
4. Concise summary built into a "4-H Spirit" monograph published in 1968 by the Iowa 4-H Office.

X. DISTRICT AND COUNTY RURAL (COMMUNITY) LIFE CONFERENCES

District conferences of this nature stemmed, in part, from the January 1932 Iowa Convocation of Ministers. (As noted above, the extension sociologist served on the general committee and presented "A Study of Iowa Conditions"). Its success and the growing interest in agricultural problems led the state committee of church executives and laymen to sponsor two district conferences in April. (See next page)

When the Plan of Work for Rural Sociology Extension (mimeographed as CD-33 leaflet) was presented at the annual ISC Extension Staff Conference, April 11-15, 1932, it specified as one of five major field projects for the year ahead:

County Country Life Conferences - county meetings of rural ministers, farm bureau leaders, and others interested in considering distinctive rural conditions and resources, together with plans for coordinating the forces of community institutions.

The following review of (a) district and (b) county country life conferences is taken from records in RSE annual reports. It is shaped to present the sequence, the procedures and the resources used in these adult education programs with church and community leaders.

A. District Rural Life Conferences

1932: The first of these was at the Iowa State College, April 1,-- while a National Student Country Life Conference was being held on the campus. About 100 attended. Ministers of all protestant churches in a central Iowa area received an invitation from the Extension Service and the committee in charge, of which Dr. L. Myron Boozer was chairman.

The second was at the Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, April 27. Two invitations were sent to protestant ministers in northeastern Iowa: one by President Latham (ISTC), W. H. Stacy (ISC),

Dr. Boozer (chairman of state church executives) and Harry G. Clowes (Waterloo Y.M.C.A.); and one by Director R. K. Bliss (ISC Extension Service). About 40 ministers attended. In a resolution they stated:

--appreciation to the sponsors and the talent (those named included Dr. George H. VonTungeln and W. H. Stacy of ISC Sociology staff).

--"Something of this kind has long been needed in northeastern Iowa...the speakers should feel they have rendered a valuable service."

--recommendation that the same agencies "cooperate in preparing and producing a similar program next year."

1933: The extension sociologist helped arrange and conduct two district country life conferences for ministers which were attended by a total of 117 leaders--Malvern in S.W. Iowa and Cedar Falls in N.E. Iowa.

1934: A second Southwest Iowa Rural Life Conference held at Malvern (Mills County) in September (20 attending) was reported as "one of the most successful county or district conferences held to date."

The forenoon program included (1) Invocation and introductory remarks by Rev. F. A. Cunningham; (2) "Spiritual Factors" by Rev. Robb of Coventer Church, (Page County); (3) "Iowa Tax Problems and Their Effect on Our Families" by State Senator Homer Hush, (Montgomery-Mills counties); and (4) Music. In the afternoon program (chaired by the ISC extension sociologist) three statements were scheduled:

(1) "Rural Programs of Churches," Rev. W. Albert Erickson, (Page-Fremont counties); (2) "Discussion Groups of Young Men and Young Women," Rev. Hugh Jackson, (Fremont county); (3) "Recreation and Cultural Arts," Rev. Pettit (Mills county).

(Note: The extension rural sociologist was on leave for graduate study about 2/3 of 1934.)

1935: RSE annual report stated:

"District Country Life Conferences for ministers are increasingly serving a need. The series held during the spring of 1935 were the best that have been held so far. They were better attended and a larger proportion of those attending participated in the discussions. Rev. W. A. Winterstein, field worker of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council, who spent considerable time in advance organization work in the areas in which the meetings were held, contributed a great deal to their success."

- (1) Cedar Falls, ISTC, May 13, 58 registered. Talent included:

ISTC faculty: Pres. O. R. Latham, Ext. Dir., I. H. Hart,
Rural Ed., Fred D. Cram, and Del. Ed., Dr. Harold Bosley.
ISC faculty: Rel. Life Dir. Dr. Nelson F. Horn and Ext.
Soc. W. H. Stacy.
Prog. Dir., IRRWC, W. A. Winterstein.
Ministers: Rev. J. A. Laurie, Cedar Falls and Rev. B. J. T.
Trickey, Marshalltown.
Y.M.C.A. secretary, John Bertch, Waterloo.

- (2) Forest City, May 13, 19 registered. Talent included:

Co. F. B. Pres., A. B. Myhr.
Librarian, Myrtle Bocker.
Co. Superintendent, J. R. Boggs.
4-H club work, Mrs. Herman Gelner.
Farm Women, Mrs. W. H. Jacobs.
Pastor H. F. Kuseth, Lake Mills.
Mr. Winterstein and Mr. Stacy.

- (3) Red Oak, May 27, 28 registered. Talent included:

Pastors: Rev. W. Albert Erickson (Lutheran), Rev. T. J. Pettit
(Methodist), and Rev. Cunningham (Methodist).
State Senator Homer Rush.
Librarian.
County Girls Club Leader.
Mr. Winterstein and Mr. Stacy.

- (4) Storm Lake, (Buena Vista College), July 2, 39 registered.
Talent included:

President of Buena Vista College.
County agent.
County Superintendent of Schools.
Superintendent, Iowa Old-Age Pension.
Chairman, Iowa Corn-Hog Committee.
District Superintendent of Methodist Churches.
Pastors: Rev. E. L. Gibson, Storm Lake and Rev. N. A.
Price of Rockwell City.
Mr. Winterstein and Mr. Stacy.

In the words of a county agent at the Red Oak conference, "Many interesting facts were learned in regard to the rural people and their contacts with rural churches. This was a very worthwhile conference."

1936: District country life conferences were held at Cedar Falls (ISTC), Indianola (Simpson College) and Red Oak. Total attendance--171.

- (1) Cedar Falls--planned with a district conference committee. Two talks by Dr. Bennett of Auburn Theological Seminary. Meeting conducted mostly on the round table basis. Notices sent from both Ames and Cedar Falls to county agents and local leaders.
- (2) Simpson College leader was Dr. Charles Burrows, professor of sociology and dean of men. Out-of-state speaker, Dr. Carl C. Taylor, USDA. State student country life conference held at the same time.
- (3) Fourth S.W. Iowa district conference, "This meeting even more than those at other centers is bringing together leaders of farm bureaus, schools and libraries along with ministers."

1937: Five district country life conferences at Iowa colleges were held the week of April 5. Dr. M. A. Dawber, head of rural work for the Methodist Church and chairman of the Town and Country Committee of the Home Missions Council, Federal Council of Churches, was engaged for the series at Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls; Parsons College, Fairfield; Simpson College, Indianola; Morningside College, Sioux City; and Tabor College, Tabor. At each conference, a district committee was elected to sponsor a 1938 conference (total attendance 300 not including student classes).

Main features of the programs were Dr. Dawber's presentation and leadership by a panel (except in the smaller conference at Tabor). Much of the discussion focused on rural cooperatives. Among those listed on the programs as contributors, in one or more of the 5 conferences, were:

- Professor Frank Robotha, ISC extension economist (3).
- Miss Jessie M. Parker, Rural School Supervisor, State Department of Public Instruction (4).
- Clark W. Howard, president, Tabor College (1).
- Professor Carter, Simpson College (1).
- Dr. Horace Hawthorne, Morningside College (1).
- Rev. H. O. Nielsen, Danish American Young Peoples League (1).

Milford Beegley, president, Iowa Farmers Elevator Association (1).
Clyde Spry, president, Woodbury County Farm Bureau (1).
Mrs. L. G. Kenison, chairman, Worth Co. Farm Womens Committee (1).
George Strayer, president, Iowa Rural Young Peoples Assembly (1).
Mrs. Rollin Brown, member, State Farm Womens Committee (1).
R. M. Hall, officer of coops and Farm Bureau (1).
Dr. Harold Skeels, Iowa Child Welfare Research Studies, SUI (1).
Miss Mary J. Treglia, director of Community House, Sioux City (1).
Howard Noge, president, Student Council, Morningside College (1).
J. E. Keck, Juvenile Probation Office, Sioux City (1).
B. W. Hall, director, Family Welfare Bureau, Sioux City (1).
Dean Taylor, editor, Fairfield (1).
Rev. Daniel E. Ker, Mediapolis (1).
Rev. A. H. Bartter, Madrid (1).
Rev. Roy Cox, Merville (1).
Rev. L. M. Kirby, Orient (1).
J. J. Boatman, farmer, Montezuma (1).
Grant Lindsay, county agent, Fairfield (1).

Fred Schnieder, county agent, Sidney (1).
W. H. Stacy, ISC extension sociologist (5).

1938: The third series of district rural life conferences at five Iowa colleges was conducted, during the week of April 25, in co-operation with the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship. Father L. Liguitti, Granger, Iowa, then president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, was engaged as the principal speaker in each of these meetings. His emphasis was upon the importance of the rural family. The afternoon program was built around a panel discussion of "To What Extent and In What Ways Can Spiritual Elements in Country Life Be Developed?" Attendance in the series totaled 280. In each case a committee was set up to sponsor a similar meeting again the next year. For each conference there was a printed program (as was true other years).

1939: A fourth series of District Rural Life Conferences at five Iowa colleges:

- (1) ISTC, Cedar Falls, 120 registered. "Who's Who on the Conference Program" listed 11 men and women.
- (2) Parsons College, Fairfield, 64 registered. "Who's Who on the Program" listed 13 men and women.

- (3) Simpson College, Indianola. 65 registered (other than students). 15 men and women listed as program leaders.
- (4) Tabor College, Tabor. 52 registered, 9 on the program talent list.
- (5) Morningside College, Sioux City, 42 registered, 19 on the program talent list.

Harry E. Terrell, Secretary, Economic Policy Committee, Des Moines, spoke and led discussion at each of these conferences on "How Do World Affairs Affect Our Lives?" Again, district committees were formed to plan for the next year's conferences.

1940: Five district conferences were held during the week of April 8. 254 individuals registered. Attendance at 15 sessions totaled 596. A general topic, "Conserving Human Values in Rural Life," was selected by representatives of the 5 districts meeting in Des Moines, January 16. Stated on some of the printed programs was: "The central purpose of the Conference is the conservation and the development of the rural community as a cultural and spiritual center of American democracy." Listed as cooperating state agencies were:

State Department of Public Instruction
Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Extension Service, Iowa State College

The district Conference Committees elected in 1939 carried major responsibilities, with the executive officer being a member of the local college staff. The extension sociologist, working with representatives of the five colleges and Mr. W. A. Winterstein of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, helped arrange special talent, outline programs (which were printed locally), and sent copies of the programs to school superintendents, Farm Bureau leaders, officers of rural youth groups, and county extension agents. Also helped make necessary last minute adjustments, conduct the meetings, and do follow-up work.

Morningside College Conference (N.W. Iowa): 70 registered (not including student assembly). Robert C. Clark, ISC extension Older Youth Leader, spoke on "Opportunities that Youth Seek": (1) finding employment, (2) continuing education, (3) social activities, (4) friendships and home, (5) Christian philosophy, (6) recognition.

Mrs. Raymond A. Sayre, Ackworth, Iowa, (state and national leader of farm women) addressed the conference on "Human Values in Rural Life." As listed in follow-up discussion, these included: (1) contact with growing things, (2) working in cooperation with the Creator, (3) providing for family unity, (4) emphasizing initiative, resourcefulness, responsibility, (5) providing sense of security, (6) cultivating pride in workmanship, (7) exalting primary social relationships, and (8) understanding trade and service relationships.

In discussions of "How Can Human Values in Rural Life be Conserved?" attention was directed to: (1) 4-H club work, (2) teaching in schools, (3) providing security of tenure, better housing, conservation of soil, (4) equalizing opportunities, (5) developing rural mindedness, (6) emphasizing leadership, and (7) attention to concept of sacredness of personality.

At the Morningside conference there was a meeting of the Sioux Pastoral Fellowship in which attention was given to stating "Christian objectives for rural life."

Tabor College Conference (S.W. Iowa): 23 registered (not including 50 students). Discussions of "Just What Are Human Values in Rural Life?" identified:

Assets: (1) Spiritual Values; idealism and optimism, cooperation with nature and God; (2) Freedom: initiative with the people and opportunities for choices; (3) Family unity; (4) Less vulnerable--occupationally; (5) Less confusion; (6) Local neighborliness; (7) Sense of responsibility.

Liabilities: (1) Lack of conveniences, educational opportunities, ownership opportunities, and agricultural policy, health program; (2) Population surplus.

John C. Galloway of the Iowa Farm Security Administration (formerly ISC extension economist-farm management) spoke and led discussion on "Must We Have Smaller Farms--What are the Alternatives?" Eight contributions to thought on this proposition were noted in the conference report.

Particular attention given to facts faced by rural young people, "4,000 surplus each year in Iowa." On the other hand, if staying on the farm they have "opportunities for apprenticeship experience with parents."

Simpson College Conference (Central Iowa: 45 registered (not including student assembly). Dr. Nat Frame, USDA (formerly state director of West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service) presented a summary of the conference, emphasizing:

- (1) Building a Christian philosophy of old age.
- (2) Bringing the consumer and producer closer together.
- (3) Expanding service activities.
- (4) Providing vocational guidance and vocational training.
- (5) Developing the cultural arts.
- (6) Cooperating in rural church work to provide a spiritual interpretation of science.

Parsons College Conference (S.E. Iowa): 50 registered (not including college chapel group). District Extension Supervisor, J. W. Merrill assisted. Discussing "Human Values in Rural Life", points noted were:

Assets: (1) Integrated family life; (2) Community spirit-sympathetic understanding, neighborly interest, mutual dependence; (3) Wholesome philosophies--relationship with God, respect for the worth of individuals, and creative-growth experiences.

Liabilities: (1) Loss of leadership; (2) Lack of time for study and self-improvement; (3) Lack of conveniences, facilities, and cultural opportunities.

A discussion of churches emphasized:

- (1) Having a program that fits the needs of the community.
- (2) Spending itself in serving the community.
- (3) Maintaining a program that is "family-wide."
- (4) Teaching pride in the cooperative rural community.
- (5) Revamping its message.

Iowa State Teachers College Conference (N.E. Iowa): 66 registered (not including college classes). Speakers included Dr. J. H. Kolb (professor, rural sociology, University of Wisconsin), Allan Kline (vice-president, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; later president of the American Farm Bureau Federation) and the Rev. W. H. Yoder, (widely known pastor of the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren). Summarizing the conference, Dr. G. E. Knoff, Director, Bureau of Religious Activities, ISTC, refocused thought on:

- (1) Economic security.
- (2) Increased satisfaction in social life, physical conveniences, and cooperation in community planning.
- (3) Deepened personal satisfactions.
- (4) Cooperation and ingenuity.
- (5) Recognition of variety in rural resources.
- (6) Grounding of institutional programs in actual needs of the community.

1941: Another series of five district Rural Life conferences--but not all the same week.

(1) Sioux City, February 18. (The 5th at Morningside College.) 140 men and women came from 46 communities in northwest Iowa. They represented churches, schools, parent-teacher associations, county cooperative extension, farm bureaus, agricultural planning committees, and liberal arts colleges. Its theme was "What are the Problems which We have to Consider in Improving Iowa Schools and How Can We Develop a Better School Program?" Problems listed by members of the group in opening discussion, led by the extension sociologist, included:

- (1) Lack of facilities--crowded conditions in schools.
- (2) Different methods of financing and lack of equalization.
- (3) Content of the school program.
- (4) Program for out-of-school youth.
- (5) Vocational guidance needs.
- (6) Reorganization of school units.
- (7) Correlation of community resources for developing educational programs.

The Recommendations Committee stated:

"This type of conference serves a need in bringing representatives of different agencies together to deal with common problems out of the home and community." They suggested that the 1941 Conference Committee consider the theme "The Home as a Factor in Democracy."

Miss Agnes Samuelson, Executive Secretary of the Iowa State Teachers Association (formerly the State Superintendent of Public Instruction) followed this discussion with a talk on "Six-Point Legislative Program as Outlined by the Iowa State Teachers Association." Then there were six round table discussions. At the luncheon session, chaired by the president of Buena Vista College, there were 10-minute

talks by Mrs. H. C. Breckenridge, president, N.W. District, Iowa Parent-Teachers Association and Rev. Calvin Schnucker, program director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship.

The afternoon program provided for:

Ten-minute reports from chairmen of the six round table discussions: (1) Financing Schools, (2) Teacher Welfare, (3) Reorganization, (4) Certification, (5) New Needs, and (6) Administration.

Summary of Teachers Legislative Program, by the Legislative Member for Northwest Division, ISTC.

Resolutions from the Assembly.

On the printed program invitation it was stated:

"See that your community sends able delegates to represent the best interests of your schools, so that the findings of this Conference will be brought back to your community by local leaders who will see that some of the suggestions are carried out."

(2) Fairfield, March 4. (The 5th at Parsons College.) Total attendance of 40. The theme was "Improving Iowa's Schools." Participants listed as educational needs:

- (1) More practical type of education--vocationally, avocationally and for better citizenship.
- (2) More effective religious instruction.
- (3) Better qualified teachers.
- (4) Cooperation between school, church, and community.
- (5) Home training.
- (6) Financial support of educational programs.
- (7) Equalizing school opportunities--rural and urban.

Mrs. Raymond A. Sayre, chairman of the Farm Womens Committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation was one of the principal speakers.

A news story in the Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette, Feb. 21, announced, "It will be an all-day meeting and Dr. H. C. Mayer, newly-elected president of Parsons College, will deliver an address on the subject, 'How Can Churches Better Serve Young People?' This will be the first opportunity for Dr. Mayer..."

Conference participants voted to follow-up on a suggestion of President Mayer to develop leadership for rural community activities and selected a committee of six to work with the Parsons College administration on the proposition. At its first meeting, Sept. 17, this committee took steps to cooperate with Richland and other communities in developing demonstration programs.

(3) Indianola, March 5. (The 6th at Simpson College.) 38 people registered (in addition to a group of students.) These included 14 ministers, two county agents, one home demonstration agent, four ministers' wives, the secretary of the Iowa State Teachers Association (Agnes Samuelson), one school teacher, two other women, one rural school director, two town superintendents of schools, two members of the Warren County Planning Committee, one representative of the State Department of Public Education, one editor, two representatives of the ISC Extension Service, the Program Director of the Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, a representative of the American Youth Commission, and two leaders of Simpson College.

(4) Cedar Falls, March 17. (The 8th at Iowa State Teachers College.) 35 leaders attended in addition to a number of college students. The district conference committee chose to deal with "Rural Life Religion and Education for Democracy." The out-of-state speaker was Dr. Shirley Greene, director of the Merom Institute at Merom, Indiana.

1942: Central College, (Dutch Reformed Church related) at Pella, held its First Annual Community Life Conference, February 19. Page 1 of the printed program stated:

Sponsored by Central College, Pella Adult Night School, Pella Cooperative Associations Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship, Iowa State College Extension Service.

Our united purpose is to strengthen the rural-urban community as a cultural and spiritual bulwark of American Democracy.

All residents of Jasper, Marion and Mahaska counties who want to further this purpose are cordially urged to take part in the conference.

Morningside College held its Sixth Annual Rural Life Conference, March 12, on the theme of "The American Home in Wartime."

Parsons College had its Sixth Annual Rural Life Conference, January 20. Theme, "The Rural Community and the Present Emergency."

(Attendance at the 8 sessions of these 3 conferences totaled 460.)

B. County Country Life Conferences

Beginning back in 1925 the extension sociologist, cooperating with county agents, contributed to meetings of county ministerial groups. Ministers had participated in county training schools conducted for leaders of local Farm Bureau units (which is another story paralleling adult education work with churches). Then, in 1932--as explained above--another proposition was initiated for county conferences where ministers and others could discuss community needs, with emphasis on coordinated planning in the community "for the benefit of all the people."

1932: Significant meetings in three counties:

Marshall--The subject of rural community programs was discussed with members of the county ministerial association, October 3. Among the propositions considered were: (1) Class A Rural Programs of Churches, (2) Survey of schools to find out the proportion of rural school pupils attending Sunday School or Church, and (3) discussion programs for the out-of-school older boys and girls. Committees were appointed to promote each. The committee on Sunday School attendance afterwards sponsored a county-wide survey on November 14... all schools outside of Marshalltown were visited by representatives who, with the cooperation of school teachers, obtained facts regarding the percent of pupils who had attended Sunday School or religious services November 6 or November 13. This analysis showed striking differences: in country schools 30 percent and in consolidated schools 52 percent; Unified church programs contributed to better attendance; some territory, due partly to lack of economic resources, were very poorly served.

Winneshiek--County meeting, November 25, of ministers, farm bureau leaders and public officials...provided a new and effective contact with 30 leaders, including a prominent official in the Lutheran Church, and a Methodist minister who spoke weekly to a radio audience. It led to another union service program in the adjoining county seat of Cresco in December.

Jackson--County conference more distinctly of the type projected in the RSE Plan of Work, held October 31 in Maquoketa.

County agent F. E. Krause reported:

This meeting was considered one of the outstanding ones of the year. One farm woman attended and ministers from nine communities....The nature of the work given by Mr. Stacy and the enthusiasm with which the audience entered into the discussion made the meeting one of the best that has been held in the county. Never before has the clergy realized the importance of the agricultural condition. Each clergyman present voluntarily emphasized the fact that it was more and more becoming necessary that the clergy interest themselves in the organization and the community welfare....

1933: County Country Life Conferences held in 5 counties (Henry, March 13; Adair, May 18; Delaware, June 7; Fayette, June 9; and Tama, October 30) with a total of 97 attending.

1934: (Extension rural sociologist on leave for graduate study a major part of the year.)

1935: See District Country Life Conferences. No county conferences reported.

1936: During July, August, September and October a series of 33 county meetings were held which were attended by 324 ministers and lay leaders in church work. These were arranged in cooperation with Rev. W. A. Winterstein and gave particular attention to:

Plans for the National Conference on the Country Church.
Program of the Iowa Rural Religious Work Council.

Possibilities of developing county religious work associations and programs.

Specifications in the rural relationships community program sponsored by the Extension Service for town and country churches.

Results of rural life surveys and a consideration of trends affecting rural institutions such as population, farm tenancy, soil erosion and interest in church attendance.

A partial classification of clergy and lay from registration cards (201 of 324) noted that 26 religious groups were represented by participants:

84 Methodist Episcopal.
19 Presbyterian.
18 Christian (Disciples).
13 Congregational Christian
10 United Presbyterian
8 Baptist
5 each: Church of the Brethren churches, Central Presbyterian, Latter Day Saints.
4 Roman Catholic.
2 each: Evangelical and Reformed, Friends, United Brethren, Reformed, Lutheran--plus 1 Missouri Synod.
1 each: "Associate Presbyterian", Evangelical, Universality, Evangelical Lutheran, Evangelical Covenant, Methodist-Congregational, Primitive Methodist.

1937: Twenty more counties were reached during July and August with County Country Life Conferences. Arranging dates, county workers were contacted with a letter, July 8, 1937, saying:

This summer we are repeating a program which was successful in 33 counties last year. In selecting another third of the counties in the state, we have tentatively included yours in the list.

These events are county conferences of community leaders--ministers, school superintendents, newspaper editors, farm organization leaders and others. They are half-day meetings. Propositions discussed include:

1. Character education programs.
2. Rural relationships of churches.
3. Community calendars.
4. Community surveys.
5. Rural social trends.
6. Farm organization history.
7. Discussion group programs.

Two workers will be able to attend each of these conferences-- Reverend W. A. Winterstein of the Iowa Rural Christian Fellowship and myself. We will have chart material. Copies of plans discussed will be distributed.

Attached is copy of a schedule which we would be able to make during July and August. Can you use the date suggested? Necessary steps in organizing the event would include:

1. Selecting a sponsoring committee.
2. Arranging facilities.
3. Sending out invitations.

I might add that these meetings have been planned in cooperation with Miss Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Mr. Francis Johnson, President of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

Please let us know as early as possible as to the advisability of holding a meeting of this kind in your county.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Stacy
Extension Sociologist
Rural Organization

Each of these county meetings was conducted on a round table basis. In a few cases they were sponsored by a county council or resulted in the establishment of a county council. Each person who registered received a follow-up letter from the extension sociologist enclosing some of the chart material used.

1938: Following up on requests received in county extension programs of work and personal contacts with leaders, 10 more county country life conferences were conducted (a total of 133 attending). Mr. Winterstein assisted in six of these, Robert Clark, state extension older youth leader in one and B. H. Beck in one. A one-sheet mimeographed guide supplied to those planning these events offered suggestions with respect to (1) Purpose, (2) Considerations, (3) Program (mentioning the fact that "first consideration" will be given to local community problems. As these are analyzed, experiences of other communities and related services and procedures will be studied), (4) Time, (5) Sponsors, (6) Arrangements, and (7) Follow-up.

1939: "Due, in the main, to pressure of other events only a limited number of these meetings were conducted in 1939?" They were developed in 15 counties (three meetings on May 3, two on May 5 and May 16) with a total of 140 leaders attending.

Participants in the February Iowa Christian Rural Institute had been asked to indicate their choices in regard to problems and activities to be considered in these county meetings. Following is a summary of their votes:

Rural youth	24
Character education	19
Rural Relationships with churches	15
Rural leadership	15
Library service	12
Rural Social Welfare	10
Iowa-country cooperation	9
Community surveys	9
Community councils	8
Population trends	6
Work of farmers organizations	5
Farmer-labor relationships	3
Rural arts programs	3
Occupational changes	2
Agricultural planning	2

Several of these 1939 conferences were developed cooperatively with the Rural Youth Section of the Extension Service.

1941: Two county ministers meetings were in the nature of county country life conferences.

Muscatine, arranged in cooperation with the county agent. Also the occasion for a talk to the Muscatine Rotary Club.

Kossuth, participants included the county agent, an editor, and a school leader. Attention directed to outlining community areas. Map of approximate community boundaries afterwards used in connection with agricultural planning and rural youth programs.

1950: Four "Church and Family Farm Institutes" (in Jones, Davis, Bremer, and O'Brien counties). 449 participants from 59 churches. Contributing leaders included executive secretary, Iowa Inter-Church Council, Director of Rural Church Work, National Lutheran Council, three District Home Economics Extension Supervisors, and four Extension Farm Management Field Men.

1954: The extension sociologist served as instructor for three sessions of the course dealing with "The Church in Today's Community" in the annual School of Religion sponsored by the Story County Council of Churches.

In cooperation with Donald Koonts of Simpson College, met with the Dallas county church leaders in June when plans were initiated for coordinating church-school-extension-farm bureau studies related to community planning.

1955: Cooperated with ministerial associations in Dallas, Sac, Polk, and Iowa counties in conferences dealing with "Public Agencies and Human Welfare."

1959: Met with ministerial associations in Appanoose and Lucas counties giving attention to:

- (1) Developing county-wide fellowship among church workers.
- (2) Planning with leaders of other community organizations and institutions.
- (3) Recognizing population changes.
- (4) Noting that larger churches have more adequate programs than many smaller churches.
- (5) Supplying tools for identifying resources and problems and developing steps in community action.
- (6) Working with rural leaders to develop such events as Harvest and Rural Life Sundays.
- (7) Developing community council programs and special projects such as community calendars, summer recreation programs and soil conservation.
- (8) Developing "Rural Church programs of rural community service" and participating in the annual Iowa Christian Rural Institute.
- (9) Using helps that are available from other "outside" sources.

XI. AREA DEVELOPMENT

In 1961 a core group made up of sociologists, economists, extension administrators, information specialists and community planning specialists at Iowa State University were charged with the responsibility of initiating social and economic development programs on an area basis which would include eight to ten counties, with 60 or 90 towns, and a total population ranging from 80,000 to 175,000. The first area program was initiated in southeast central Iowa and has come to be known as TENCO.

The general development objective which guided the efforts in area development was "to increase total human satisfaction through a fuller use of resources."¹ With rapid social, economic, and technological changes occurring in American society, there are unavoidable lags or imbalances in the adjustment of resources to bring about greater human satisfaction. These imbalances are of two kinds, structural and human.² Structural imbalances refer to the basic structure of the community which includes production, the retail and wholesale services, the institutions, such as schools, churches, and government. Human imbalances refer to the capability of the people, their attitudes, and their information.

The objectives of the area development programs of Iowa State University since 1961 have been to generate and deliver information which would allow the people in an area to study the structural and human imbalances, assign priorities and initiate appropriate actions. Increasing the knowledge and information of the people within an area will help the people make a better decision. More informed decisions of the people will help to increase total human satisfactions through a fuller use of resources.

Between 1961 and the beginning of 1968, four multi-county areas in Iowa initiated social and economic development programs. In each of the four areas, there was an extension leader for area development. Information had

¹Powers, Ronald C. Sociologing In Development: An Empirical Case. Paper presented at the Sociology of Development Conference, Ames, Iowa, Iowa State University, March 13, 1968.

²Eldridge, Eber. Imbalances In Rural America. Ames, Iowa, Iowa State University, Cooperative Extension Service, Area 2, April, 1963.

been generated for each of these four areas which included an economic base study and a population study. Although they were not completed for each of the four areas, other studies completed for one or more of the four areas included local government, recreation, and education. Some organization of local people on an area basis had evolved in each of the four multi-county areas. In each area, some area wide information and educational activities had occurred or were in process.

With the above brief general background of social and economic development programs at Iowa State University, the remainder of this section will focus on only one aspect of area development programs, the churches. Although educational programs have been conducted with churches in each of the areas in which social and economic development programs have been initiated, the following discussion will highlight only a few examples to illustrate some of the current trends in providing educational and informational assistance to churches.

In 1963 church conferences were planned and implemented in TENCO (ten counties in southeastern Iowa - Appanoose, Davis, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne). The objectives for this conference were to: (1) develop an understanding of the social and economic situation in TENCO; (2) develop an understanding of the meaning of these changes for the church; (3) provide information such as population projections which congregations can use in making decisions for the church of the future; and (4) identify possible courses of action for churches which are experiencing the impact of social and economic change.

The one-day program was presented at three different locations (Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, and Centerville). Approximately 200 clergy and lay leaders attended the three sessions. As a result of these meetings, two of the counties in the TENCO area followed through with similar meetings for clergy and additional lay leaders.

The Midcrest Extension Area (eight counties in southern Iowa - Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, Union) developed an educational program on The Elderly, The Church and The Community in 1968. The purposes for this series were to develop: (1) an understanding of the social, psychological, and physical nature of elderly persons; (2) an understanding of

the nature of social-economic changes in rural communities and the implications of these changes for elderly persons; and (3) an interest in the scope of various community-wide and church programs to meet the needs of the elderly in contemporary communities. This series involved three all-day sessions in Creston. The audience which was invited to the series included all the clergy and one influential lay person from each church in the 8-county area. Approximately 45 participated in this series.

In 1968, the Iowa Council of Churches initiated a pilot project in co-operative church planning. The area which was selected included Clarke, Decatur, Lucas and Wayne counties. A steering committee was created which consisted of one minister and one lay leader from each of the four counties. The Iowa Council of Churches and the University Extension Service of Iowa State served as resources to the steering committee.

The steering committee decided to plan a program to be presented at five different locations (Leon, Osceola, Humeston, Chariton, and Corydon) over the four-county area. The clergyman, a key layman, a key laywoman and one young person were invited from each church in the four-county area.

The objectives of these meetings as stated by the steering committee were to: (1) establish communications among the churches in the area; (2) share experiences of ministries to communities; (3) know one another better; and (4) ultimately to do our work as churches more effectively.

The program content for each of the five meetings included: (1) small group discussions of the mission of the church and the present actions, which churches are taking to fulfill the mission; (2) social and economic changes in the community and their impact upon the church; and (3) small group discussions of future courses of action.

The University Extension Service played a resource role in providing educational information about social and economic changes and their impact upon the church in the four-county area. Approximately 80 clergy, laymen, laywomen and youth participated in the meetings at the different locations. Currently, an evaluation meeting is being planned by the steering committee. In addition to evaluating the five meetings, it is anticipated that they will discuss future planning.

Social scientists at Iowa State University will continue to provide educational and informational assistance to churches in the future. While this assistance can be provided in different ways, some of the major areas in which assistance is likely to be provided are: (1) leadership development for both clergy and lay church leaders; (2) educational information on social and economic changes confronting Iowa communities; (3) implications of social and economic changes for churches; and (4) alternative courses of action. Through providing and improving the information available to church leaders and members, church people will have more information to help them make better decisions. Through more informed decisions, churches may help to bring about the fullest use of resources for the greatest human satisfaction.

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